Ateneo tops UP in world list; DLSU, UST cited

By Kristine L. Alave

ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY IS not only No. 1 in basketball, but is also the leading tertiary school in the Philippines, based on several criteria like peer and employer reviews, faculty-student ratios and citations of teaching staff.

But the University of the Philippines (UP), ranked No. 2 in the country this year after being No. 3 in 2007, dismissed the findings of The Times Higher Education-Quacquarelli Symonds (THE-QS) World University Rankings 2008.

ATENEO A6

ACROSS / A15

Bid to oust Panlilio filed at Comelec

BUSINESS / B1

Remittances rose 10.4 % to $1.3B in August

BUSINESS / B1

2 more foreign firms plan $3.3-B nickel facilities

HUNDREDS of job seekers flock to the Inquirer Libre Job Expo 2008 at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati City on Wednesday. The job fair is open until Friday.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Thursday, October 16, 2008 ★ 7 sections / Vol. 23 / No. 313 P18

$10-B Asia crisis fund up

GMA says money will buy banks' toxic assets

By Christine V. Esguerra

SOUTHEAST ASIAN countries, backed by Japan, China and South Korea, have agreed to come up with their own version of the US and European bailout packages with a "standby" fund that drew an initial commitment of $10 billion from the World Bank.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said the crisis fund would be used to assist member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) with "severe liquidity problems."

Asean is made up of the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Vietnam, Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia and Laos.

The facility would also be tapped to buy toxic assets of banks and help troubled financial institutions and private companies to recapitalize, Ms Arroyo announced at the induction ceremonies for new officers of the Union of Local Authorities in the Philippines in Malacañang.

Governments around the world have pledged around $5.2 trillion in a variety of schemes to combat the worst global financial crisis in decades that has toppled financial institutions.

Following a $2.4-trillion European plan to bail out banks, the United States said it would pump

10-B ASIA A6

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo announces the establishment of a standby fund for troubled financial institutions in Asia during Wednesday's induction of officers of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines in Malacañang. GIL CALMA

JOLO TAKEOFF US Ambassador Kristie Kenney and Sulu Gov. Abdusakur Tan on Tuesday test a heavy equipment of construction firm that won a P232-million contract to upgrade the Jolo airport runway. JOEL NIÑO ROSALES/PDI

AFP bracing for trouble in South over SC ruling

By Jeoffrey Maitem, Edwin Fernandez and Ed General
Inquirer Mindanao

KORONADAL CITY—THE MILITARY is bracing for more violence in conflict-torn areas in Mindanao as a result of the Supreme Court ruling declaring the memorandum of agreement on ancestral domain (MOA-AD) unconstitutional.

Maj. Armand Pico, spokesperson of the Armed Forces' Eastern Mindanao Command based in Davao City, said "trojan" members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) were expected to mount "retaliatory attacks."

"But we have a contingency plan in place to protect the civilians," Pico said on the phone.

People displaced by the fighting in Maguindanao, like Aznar Sarmadon of Pagatin, Datu

AFP BRACING A8

Puno: Gov't negotiators disregarded Charter

By Norman Bordadora, Christian V. Esguerra and Michael Lim Ubac

THE PRESIDENTIAL PEACE ADviser and the government negotiating panel "played fast and loose with the do's and don'ts of the Constitution" when they crafted the agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) expanding the Bangsamoro homeland, according to Chief Justice Reynato Puno.

In his opinion concurring with the Supreme Court majority decision rejecting the memorandum of agreement on ancestral domain (MOA-AD), Puno said: "During the whole process, the government peace negotiators conducted themselves free from the strictures of the Constitution."

The Supreme Court on Tuesday voted 8-7 to find the MOA-AD "contrary to law and the Constitution" with its provisions on the creation of the Bangsamoro Juridical Entity (BJE).

"[Under the agreement] the BJE is granted powers of governance which it can exercise with-

PUNO A8

US communists feel vindicated: We told you so

AMERICAN COMMUNISTS ARE FEELING rather smug in these days of capitalist turmoil. Their armed Filipino comrades, meanwhile, feel that a "revolutionary upsurge" is the cat's

At the US Communist Party's New York headquarters on 23rd Street in Manhattan, regional party chairman Libero Della Piana, 76, laid out why he thinks Marxism's imminent time has finally come

US REDS A6

Ex-cop awash with cash barred from leaving Russia

By Tarra Quismundo

TOO MUCH CASH IN THE BAG got a recently retired police official into trouble with Russian customs agents over the weekend, sending officials in Manila scrambling to explain the multimillion peso travel allowance of a Philippine police delegation for a six-day trip.

Shaking up the new Philippine National Police leadership, retired PNP Director Eliseo de la Paz, the national comptroller, was questioned on his way out of the Moscow international airport Saturday after customs inspectors found cash beyond the outbound limit in his carry-on bag.

De la Paz, appointed disbursement officer for the PNP delegation to the 77th Interpol General Assembly in Saint Petersburg, was barred from boarding his

EX-COP A6

Fears of recession spook stock markets

LONDON—EUROPEAN AND Asian stock markets retreated on Wednesday after a two-day rally amid concerns that trillions of dollars committed to bail out troubled banks would not be enough to stave off a deep recession in some of the world's biggest economies.

In early trading on Wednesday, Britain's FTSE 100 index fell 3 percent, Germany's DAX dropped 2.4 percent, while France's CAC-40 skidded 2.4 percent.

The losses in Europe's followed similar declines in the US and most Asian markets, except Japan.

Fears of a severe global slow-

FEARS A6

AYALA Land offered families of the 11 victims of the Glorietta 3 blast houses worth P4 million in Cavite like the model houses shown above.

Wife remembers hubby: I miss him so much ...

By Julie M. Aurelio

TWO WEEKS AGO WHEN she passed the Glorietta 2 mall in Makati City, she felt a chill as it dawned on her that her husband might have stood on the same spot before he was crushed by steel beams and rubble in the explosion on Oct. 19, 2007.

It was, Maita de Jesus said, as if unseen hands were dragging her to the depths of the damaged mall. "I heard something ritual on the ground, as if something had exploded from a distance. I felt as if there was a hole in the ground. But there was nothing," she said.

Eleven people, including her husband Jose Allen, died and more than 100 were injured in the explosion that rocked the mall an hour past noon. According to police investigators, the blast was triggered by methane gas trapped in the building's basement.

De Jesus has visited Glorietta 2 a couple of times and, she said, the fear was present each time.

WIFE REMEMBERS B11

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

SUERTRES

2	3
15 7 20 23	6 3 5
3 3 1	
6 0 6 7	6 3 3

MEGALOTTO 6/45

6 17 28 33 34 43

P33,495,240.60

Destabilizers behind impeach – GMA

LILAF LEGENDS President Macapagal-Arroyo exchanges pleasantries with officers of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap), headed by its president, Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos (center), during yesterday's oath-taking in Malacañang. AP

By TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO YESTERDAY took a jab at the personalities behind a fresh impeachment complaint against her, accusing them of destabilizing the country.

The President commented on the complaint for the first time while praising local chief executives from the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) for their steadfast support.

"You are at the frontlines of progress, peace and stability, unlike others who still want to destabilize our country," she said in Filipino at the oath-taking of new Ulap officers in Malacañang.

"I'm thankful that we're on the same side against those who will cling to the politics of destabilization," she continued.

The new impeachment move, the fourth in the past four years, was filed by businessman Jose de Venecia III, the son of the former House speaker, together with three brothers who believe government forces are responsible for the disappearance of their children. The complaint accuses Ms Arroyo of betrayal of public trust, culpable violation of the Constitution, bribery, graft and corruption, and other high crimes.

Ms Arroyo also thanked Ulap officers and members for calling for a stop to politicking in the face of the global economic slowdown.

"Check to you, local government executives to be the frontline examples of good governance and I hold you to continue to be a bastion of support," she said toward the end of her speech.

Before the Presidium spoke, Ulap president Mandaluyong City Mayor Benjamin "Benhur" Abalos Jr. announced that the group had passed a resolution Tuesday night urging Congress to reject the complaint.

Local leaders agreed that it was "ironic that the impeachment should take a backseat, and instead all energy should be focused to shield this country from the global economic crisis," Abalos said before intervening the President.

Abalos is the son of the former head of the Commission of Elections, Benjamin Abalos, who resigned from his post last year after the public Dr Virmeria told a film airs hearing that the election chief had offered him a $10 million bribe to withdraw his bid for the controversial National Broadband Network (NBN) project.

The $329 million NBN deal with the ZTE group of China, which the wife Abalos reportedly brokered, is among the anomalies listed in the impeachment complaint.

"Impeachment is a political exercise. It's bound to fail, added Carandang but Sen. Lito Pay Villa-Aurea, whose father is the president's executive secretary, Ermita.

Meanwhile, the House minority like yesterday agreed to back up the impeachment complaint.

Minority Leader Rosalio Arroyo said the complaint would finally allow Congress to present evidence of the President's role in corrupt state transactions, election fraud and the extrajudicial killings. These points were blocked due to technicalities in the previous impeachment cases, he said.

Minority members in attendance at the meeting in a consultant in Greenhills included Deputy Minority Leader Rodolfo Gelez, Jack Villarosa, Teodoro Casiño, Liza Maza, Rita Montiveros, Darlene Antonino-Custodio, Teodoro Gempesaw III and Edcigen Maligaya.

Evardone is GMA adviser on LGUs

By TJ Burgonio

EASTERN SAMAR GOV. BEN Evardone, one of President Macapagal-Arroyo's staunchest allies in local government, has been appointed presidential adviser on local government units and public affairs.

The President yesterday acknowledged Evardone in his speech before the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) in Malacañang, referring to him as her adviser for public affairs. Evardone had played a key role in patching up the differences between mayors and governors on who should lead Ulap.

Evardone, 45, said his job entails crafting policies and studies on relevant and pressing issues, and helping mobilize pols in support for major presidential advocacies.

He is most known for spearheading a petition to extend the Constitution through people's initiative in 2006, which was dismissed as unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.

Evardone is now the chair of the Regional Peace and Order Council, and secretary general of the League of Provinces of the Philippines.

A former journalist, he also served as assistant Executive Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government during the Aquino administration.

The new set of Ulap officers, led by its new president, Mandaluyong City Mayor Benjamin "Benhur Abalos Jr., took their oath yesterday before the President in Malacañang.

On the eve of the oath-taking, Evardone said he and other mayors finally resolved their fallout governors to drop their objections and support Abalos as head of Ulap, traditionally led by members of the Governors' League.

"We should be united especially at this time," he said.

Some governors had threatened to withdraw from Ulap to protest Abalos' election as president of the group, saying a governor should lead the organization. But the mayors and other local executives had countered that there is nothing in Ulap's by-laws that prevented other local executives from heading the group.

"We're sure OK as you can see," said Abalos after holding a joint briefing with Evardone, Misamis Occidental Gov. Loreto Leo Ocampos, Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Raymund Villafuerte and Zamboanga del Norte Gov. Rolando Yebes, among others.

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Too late to include SC decision in impeach rap

AFTER THE SUPREME COURT DECLARED unconstitutional a memorandum of agreement between the Arroyo administration and the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), impeachment proponents said they want to include it in their complaint.

Businessman Jose de Venecia III, who led the complaint group, said they would study it when it would suit their purpose.

But it may be too late for them, chided Rep. Marcos Defensor, who chairs the committee on justice that will decide whether the complaint is sufficient in substance and form to merit deliberations.

Defensor said De Venecia's group could still amend their impeachment complaint to include the controversial memorandum of agreement but they would run the risk of losing out to Atty. Oliver Lozano whose own impeachment complaint was received just minutes after De Venecia filed theirs at 7:40 a.m. Monday.

Defensor said that under House rules, any amendment would require that the complainants file a new impeachment complaint and this time against

At the Apex and Mayo forum, Defensor said the illegal agreement could possibly have been the strongest case against the President since it would be based on a high court decision. He dismissed the other cases as a "rehash" of past issues.

Gatchalian lawyers tag Erap as 'Jose Velarde'

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE LAWYERS OF BUSINESSMAN William Gatchalian have finally submitted documentary proof that former president Joseph Estrada was the real owner of the controversial "Jose Velarde" account in the former Equitable-PCI Bank.

The lawyers handed over to the Sandiganbayan an envelope containing a two-page letter from the lawyers of the bank, dated March 16, 2001, informing Estrada that the Velarde account would be closed.

The letter, on stationary bearing the letterhead of the Feliciano Bautista and Reyes law office, counsel for EPCI Bank, was addressed to "Mr. Joseph Ejercito Estrada" of "No. 1 Polk St., North Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila" and signed by lawyers Jose Feliciano and Antonio Bautista.

"On behalf and upon authority of our client, Equitable PCIBank, we hereby terminate Investment Management Account No. 101-70056-1 which you entered into in the name of 'Jose Velarde' as Principal, with the Bank last Feb. 4, 2000. The termination shall become effective on 17 May 2001," the letter is addressed to Estrada said.

Equitable has since been taken over by Banco de Oro.

Perlas handed over the documents to support its request to reclaim such certificates which Perlas said is part as security for a P500 million loan from the owner of the Jose Velarde account.

Perlas said it had already paid its debt directly to the owner of the account.

But the Sandiganbayan ruled that government claims would take priority over those of private individuals and has ordered Banco de Oro to hand over P389.7 million from the former Velarde account, including interest earned.

Estrada denied he was the owner of the account, which at one time contained up to P6 billion. It was claimed by one of his businessmen friends, Ashon Dichaves.

During impeachment proceedings against Estrada in 2001, this supposed secret had blocked the opening of an envelope believed to contain bank documents, saying it would violate bank secrecy laws. A people power revolt resolved the issue by deposing Estrada in January 2001. (Later, it was learned that the controversial envelope contained only a letter claiming it was owned by Dichaves, who quickly fled the country.)

RP-managed ship with 21 sailors hijacked by Somalian pirates

KUALA LUMPUR—SOMALI PIRATES HIJACKED a Philippine-managed bulk carrier with 21 sailors aboard on Wednesday, a maritime watchdog said.

Noel Choong, head of the International Maritime Bureau's (IMB) piracy reporting center in Kuala Lumpur, told AFP pirates boarded the vessel at 1244 GMT (1:44 a.m. in Manila) in the southern Gulf of Aden.

"The ship was sailing from the Middle East to Asia," he said.

Last week Somali pirates seized a Greek tanker and apparently attacked a World Food Programme-chartered ship.

According to the IMB, 72 ships have been attacked off Somalia since January 11 of which are still being held for ransom. Pirates are holding more than 200 crew members.

The Philippines said on Wednesday it supported establishing a coalition of naval forces off Somalia to prevent the hijacking of foreign vessels, many of which have Filipino crews.

Manila will continue to reject ransom demands for its citizens held by pirates, said Esteban Conejos, an undersecretary at the foreign department. /AFP

Palace sees oil price cut

By Cleofas V. Siguerra

SINCE IT WAS Malacañang, there will be an oil price rollback this weekend.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday assured subsidy protests on oil companies, predicting that they would adjust their pump prices within the week following the steady decrease in crude oil prices in the world market.

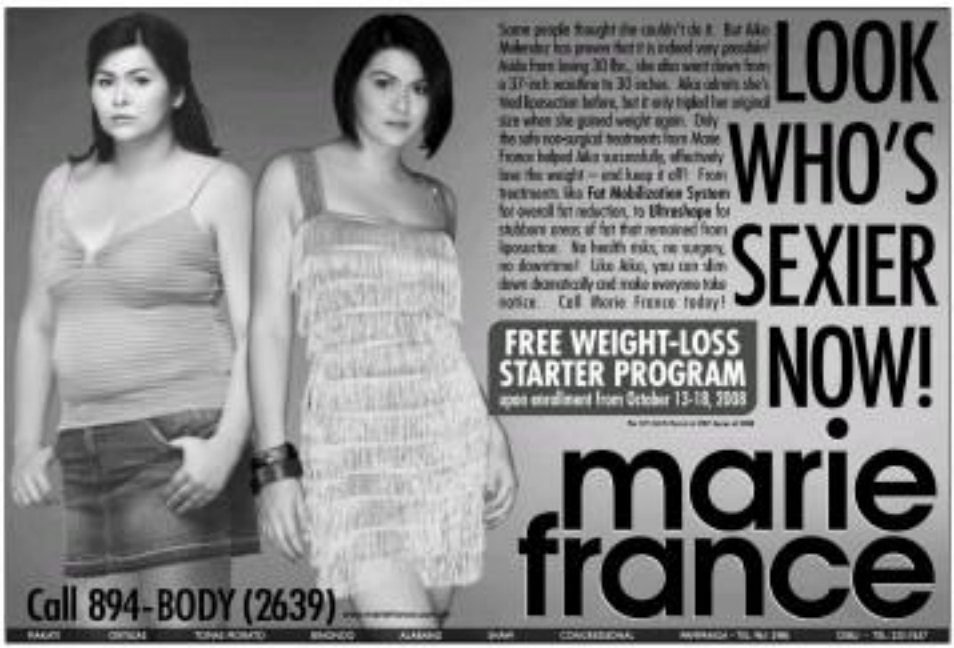
"I am very sure, given the modalities involved, toward the weekend there could be a rollback," he told reporters in media briefing. "How much is still left? That we do not know. It's up to them."

Ermita said he was going by one instance when he had predicted a price adjustment and oil companies eventually lowered their prices a few days later.

As of July 25, he said the pump price of unleaded gasoline had declined by P11.5 and diesel by P11.

Still, the administration failed to specify the demand for a "one-time, big-time" price reduction being demanded by transport and consumer groups, considering the relatively cheaper price of oil in the world market today.

This month, the Dubai crude registered an average of $78 per barrel compared to $92.80 in September.



ATENEO de Manila campus in Quezon City

Ateneo tops UP in world list

Front page A1

UP said it did not take part in this year's survey.

The THE-QS World University Rankings 2008 showed that the American ivy league schools dominated the top 10 list, followed by UK's Cambridge University and Oxford University.

In the survey released this week, Ateneo ranked 254th, leaping from between 400th and 500th position last year. Ateneo was sandwiched between London's School of Oriental and African Studies and the Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, Spain.

UP, the country's premier state university, was at 271st place, up from 356th last year. UP was placed between two German universities—the University of Hamburg and Ulm University.

DLSU and UST, both Catholic universities like Ateneo, were ranked 423rd and 429th, respectively. In the past year, the two schools were not of the Top 500.

The 2008 results reversed past trends, where the state-run UP led in the rankings and where Philippine universities hovered between the 400 and 500 levels.

Best showing for RP schools

Overall, this year highlighted the best showing of Philippine universities in the rankings yet.

The survey was conceived to rank the world's top tertiary educational institutions based on how other institutions (10 percent) and employers (10 percent) perceive them, the number of citations to unrivalled publications (20 percent), student and faculty ratio (20 percent), and the number of international teachers (5 percent) and students (5 percent) in the institution.

The survey also measured the schools' performance in the fields of life sciences, arts and humanities, natural sciences, social sciences and technology.

The THE-QS website only lists the top 300 schools in the field soldiers rankings. None of the Philippine institutions made it to the top 100 list.

Heartened

Ateneo officials said they were heartened by the school's strong showing.

Antoinette Angeles, Ateneo vice president for academic affairs, said the community "was very happy" about the results. "It is important to us because it shows how people outside see us," she said.

The findings, Angeles noted, reflected Ateneo's efforts to internationalize the university and its percentage more research work from its faculty.

Ateneo has consistently enjoyed positive perception from the business community, she said.

By contrast, UP raised doubts on the survey's validity, saying the university did not take part in this year's survey it took part in 2007.

Problematic methodology

In a statement, Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, UP vice president for public affairs, said the new university did not join because the survey organizers refused to disclose where and how they got their data.

"Since it does not specify who are surveyed or what questions are asked, the methodology is problematic," Hidalgo said.

For this year's survey, UP was not invited to participate, she said.

Hidalgo said UP president Emerlinda Roman was assured in e-mail message from QS Asia Pacific director Mandy Mok, sent to her that UP had "gone up in the rankings."

The QS e-mail also informed UP that it could advertise in the 2009 Top University Guide and join the university fair for a fee of $49,000, Hidalgo said.

"UP can hardly be expected to spend more than P2 million on publicity for itself involving a survey conducted by an organization that refuses to divulge where it obtains its data," Hidalgo said.

Harvard tops list

The survey showed that Harvard University in Massachusetts topped the 2008 list, as it did in the previous years. It was followed by Yale University, also in Massachusetts, and University of Cambridge and University of Oxford—both in Britain.

Two institutions from the Asia-Pacific landed in the Top 20: the Australian National University at 14th place and the University of Tokyo at 19th place.

UNIVERSITY of the Philippines Diliman

DE LA Salle University-Manila

UNIVERSITY of Sto. Tomas-Manila

RP's top 4 universities

Ateneo de Manila University (AdMU)

- FOUNDED in 1859 as ATENEO MUNICIPAL de Manila in Intramuros
- Relocated to Loyola Heights, Quezon City in 1952
- Run by Jesuits
- AdMU campuses include Ateneo de Manila (Quezon City), Ateneo Law School and a business school in Makati City. Its sister schools are Ateneo de Naga, Ateneo de Davao University, Ateneo de Zamboanga and Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan
- Estimated tuition for the academic year: P90,614 (1.2)*
- Cost per unit: P2,515.08 (Tuition varies depending on units)
- Usual number of units per semester: 15
- Terms in an academic year (AY): 3

De La Salle University (DLSU)

- Founded in June 1911
- It is run by the Brothers of the Christian Schools (De La Salle Brothers)
- DLSU campuses include DLSU Manila (main), DLSU College of St. Benilde and DLSU Dasmariñas
- Other DLSU System schools include DLS-Zobel in Muntinlupa, DLSU-Health Sciences Campus and the DLSU-Professional Schools Inc.
- Estimated tuition for the AY: P112, 947.02*
- Cost per unit: P2,040.33 (average cost per unit)
- Usual number of units: 18
- Terms in an AY: 3

University of the Philippines (UP) System

- It's a state-run university established in 1908 on Padre Faura
- It transferred to its main campus in Diliman in 1949
- The UP constituent universities are UP Diliman (flagship campus)-Diliman, Quezon City—with its extension or branch in Los Baños, Laguna; UP Manila-Ermita, Manila; UP Mindanao-Davao City; UP Visayas-Cebu, Tacloban, Iloilo; and UP Open University (distance learning)
- Estimated tuition for the AY: P56,355* (This is the maximum tuition fee paid by students whose families have annual incomes of more than P1 million, the highest income bracket per the university's STRAP bracketing—the strategy that groups students according to how much they should pay depending on their income. Those whose families earn less than P80,000 a year, the lowest income levels of the STRAP, are given free tuition)
- Cost per unit: P1,809
- Usual number of units: 18
- Terms in an AY: 2

University of Sto. Tomas (UST)

- Founded in April 1611 by Dominican friars
- Originally located within Intramuros, it transferred to its current location along España in Manila in 1927
- Estimated tuition for the AY: P49,387.88*
- Cost per unit: P1,872.88
- Usual number of units: 21
- Terms in an AY: 2

* As of AY 2008-2009 Compiled by Inquirer Research

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, October 16, 2008
28th Week in Ordinary Time
Bishop / Missionary Mary Mazzarello
1st Reading: Eph 1:1-10
Gospel: Lk 11:47-54

Jesus said to the Pharisees, "A curse is on you, for you build sepulchres to the prophets your ancestors killed. So you approve and agree with what your ancestors did; for it is sure! They put to death the prophets, and now you raise their tombs!"

(The Wisdom of God also said,) "I will send prophets and apostles and this people will kill and persecute some of them, thus the present generation will have to answer for the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the foundation of the world, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was murdered between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, the people of this race will have to answer for it all.

"A curse is on you, teachers of the Law, for you have taken the key of knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you prevented others from entering."

As Jesus left that place, the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees began to harass him, asking him endless questions, setting traps to catch him in something he might say.

Commentary:

Jesus' criticism of the lawyers and Pharisees was not without consequences. He spoke the truth, and in so doing became marked for death. His words would be used against Him, and those who felt the sting of His teaching would seek to bring Him down.

When the Word of God takes root within us we can expect similar consequences. When we live the Gospel we are in a manner that is threatening to the status quo. We cannot help but challenge others to live the Gospel, if only by our presence. Following Jesus means walking with Him all the way to the cross.

(Visitation Communications Foundation, Inc., 8 Mercury St. UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, DPO Box 2032, Philippines 1101 Contact Nos. 981-8500, 981-8600, Fax No. (632) 921-6030, E-mail: vcf@pcp.net, Website: http://www.thegospeltoday.com, Chairman: Fr. Jose Clemente Ma. Ibarra, CSsR, Publication of the Redemptorists in the Philippines, Director: Fr. Michael Maria Mendoza CSsR, Editor: Fr. Christian Alfonso Buenafe CSsR, Associate Editors: Fr. Jesus Emmanuel Abad, Angelo Angeles, Jeanette Ong, E-mail: dailygospel@yahoo.com/vcfpcp@gmail.com)

Corrections

IN THE SEPT. 21 ISSUE, a photo caption on Page C2 of the Lifestyle section misnamed the surname of a farmers model. The ex-model's name is Ping Valenzuela — not Peñalva.

* * *

ON THE SAME PAGE, former ambassador Ching Escaler was mistakenly identified as Dondy Tuason in another photo caption.

* * *

IN THE OCT. 3 ISSUE, a caption on Page B3 of the Lifestyle section misstated the name of the secretary general of Arab TV. The secretary general's name is Hag Cruz Hanif — not Maghanif Cruz.

* * *

IN THE OCT. 12 ISSUE, a front page story — "Cirilo miracle: Yuta Sarcelores aims to 500" — misnamed the Banco de Oro savings account number that is open for donations for Yuta Sarcelores. The Ateneo graduate who was shot in the head by a holdup man. The correct account number is 0 2148-06220-0 — not 2140-06220.

* * *

THE SAME STORY misspelled the name of the holder of the savings account. The account is under the name of Anne — not Anna — Marie F. Sarcelores.

* * *

IN THE OCT. 13 ISSUE, the "There's the rub" column of Conrado de Quiros on Page A14 of the Opinion section — "Kidnapped?" — misspelled the surname of a member of the 1986 Constitutional Commission. The member's name is Francisco "Paco" Berenguer — not Berenguer.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for corrections of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer 5th Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Makati St., Brgy. Bangkal, Makati City, fax this no. 897-4841 to 44, e-mail address daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be made to the Public Editor, e-mail them to: yvonne.t@inquirer.com.ph or fax this no. 897-4719/16, local The Publisher. His phone number is 897-0000 local 209.

DFA: We tried to save OFW

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE GOVERNMENT HAD EXERTED ALL efforts to spare the life of Filipino worker Jenifer Ridoyan, alias Yemaneia Lasalleen, but these were repeatedly rebuffed by the family of his employer, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

Speaking at a press conference, Foreign Undersecretary Jaybee Cuenzo Jr. took exception to the statement of Migrante, a non-governmental organization, which claimed the government for acting "too late with too little effort" to stop Ridoyan's execution last Tuesday.

"We were monitoring the case of a woodly born," Cuenzo stressed, adding that the embassy had exhausted all means to seek forgiveness from the victim's family.

Ridoyan was convicted of murdering a Saudi national guard in the holy city of Medina by strangling the man and piercing his neck with a pen. He was sentenced to death by beheading by the Jeddah Shariah Grand Court in April 2007.

The death sentence was affirmed by the Tamyiz Court (Appellate Court) and the Supreme Judicial Council (Supreme Court) on April 21, 2008, despite repeated appeals filed by the lawyers engaged by the Philippine Consulate General in Jeddah to represent Ridoyan before the family of Mahfoth, the Governor of Jeddah, and the Minister of Interior.

Letter of request

Cuenzo said that President Macapagal-Arroyo even wrote two letters to King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud on Dec. 6, 2007 and on July 7, 2008 requesting clemency for Ridoyan, deferment of issuance of Royal Decree of Execution, and for the King to designate an officer of the Royal Court to assist in convincing the victim's family to extend forgiveness in exchange for blood money.

However, the victim's family had refused to forgive Ridoyan and insisted on their right to queas or the imposition of equivalent penalty.

Under Shariah's Law, the crime of murder results in a public and private liability.

While the King of Saudi Arabia can forgive the public rights aspect of the case, he cannot extend clemency if the victim's family insists on their right of qisas as they did on this case.

Cuenzo also said that the government already sent a note verbale to the Saudi government to request the repatriation of Ridoyan's remains.

Cuenzo said that the government closely monitored the case of the OFW in a weekly basis.

"From the very beginning, we are trying to save his life," Cuenzo said.

At present, there are 40 death penalty cases involving OFWs elsewhere in the world, 34 of which are still in various stages of litigation.

Cuenzo said that of the 64 death penalty cases in 2008, 24 were already commuted to life imprisonment and 11 of the convicts have since returned to the Philippines.

Gov't to set up contingency plan for job cuts

By TJ Burgonio

THE GOVERNMENT IS SETTING UP A livelihood fund for overseas Filipinos who could lose their jobs if the United States slides into a recession, President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday.

The President said this was part of the contingency plan drawn up by the government's economic managers to cushion the impact of a possible US recession.

"We have an expansive livelihood fund to serve as a buffer fund this Filipino expatriates that may be displaced by the global economic meltdown can access," she said at the cash raising of officers of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap).

The fund, she added, could also serve as a counterpool fund for retraining repatriated livelihood program.

The President did not mention a specific amount, but said the details of the fund would have be finalized by officials of the Department of Labor and Employment.

Labor Secretary Marianito Roque had already been of outlooks in the demand for Filipino workers in the US, Middle East and elsewhere, saying there are a wide range of jobs awaiting them in Canada, Australia and Europe.

Lower remittances

Labor organizations had warned that Overseas Filipino Workers would suffer the brunt of a US recession and a global economic slowdown, raising fears of lower remittances in the coming year.

The overseas workers have been credited with keeping the economy afloat, sending home $15.4 billion last year that accounted for nearly a tenth of the country's gross domestic product.

In her speech, the President also said the contingency plans drawn up by the economic managers were designed to promote private growth, upgrade infrastructure and expand social services.

She said the accelerated infrastructure spending would rely mainly on government financing institutions, government owned and controlled corporations, the private sector and the local government units.

"The financing scheme comes from private and public sector sources, ODA (official development assistance) loans, GAA (General Appropriations Act), public-private or joint venture, corporate funds, proceeds coming from disaster mandated by law like Oplan Bayanihan and Power Industry Reform Act), and National Government (GO) loan sharing," she said.

$10-B Asia crisis fund established

From page A1

$250 billion into investors' hands to get them lending to each other in an attempt to end the crisis, which began with the collapse of the US housing market.

The crisis has provided plenty of reminders to Asia of its own financial crisis a decade ago, which started here in several countries crashed and foreign investors fled the region.

Preliminary agreement

Mr. Arroyo said the preliminary agreement on the financial package was reached at the meeting initiated by Finance Secretary Margarito Teves and Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya with their Asian counterparts at the World Bank and International Monetary Fund meetings in Washington.

Also in attendance were finance ministers from Asian partners China, Japan and South Korea, and officials from the IMF and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

"The World Bank indicated that it could initially commit to $10 billion as its contribution to the standby facility," Mr. Arroyo said in her speech.

"Hopefully the IMF, ADB, Japan, China and the rest of Asean will contribute an equivalent amount around the world to restore confidence in the battered financial systems.

ROLLER-COASTER ride: A trader monitor share prices at the Philippine Stock Exchange in Makati City Wednesday. Philippine share prices closed 1.35-percent lower as investors took profits after the sharp rebound on the previous day's trading. —

the wake of the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis to protect any country facing a balance of payments crisis.

No immediate need

"The last few weeks have revealed that the world needs more than confidence. Just as we had structural reforms which times were better, the world also needs structural reforms and global cooperation," the Prime said.

Analysts said there was no immediate need to recapitalize banks as companies in Asia so far were exposed to the crisis in the West, although Asian financial markets have been badly hit by contagion.

Still, an emergency fund could help stave off potential crisis and could also provide a boost to confidence, they said.

"We are not forecasting a crisis scenario where governments will have to recapitalize," Ricardo Mahoutbwed, a primary credit analyst at Standard & Poor's, rating agency, told Reuters in Singapore.

"There is no such pressing need to Asia yet for such a fund. But it is a good development as it will prepare Southeast Asian nations to better take care of any banking problems that may occur," Mahoutbwed said.

Mr. Arroyo said the world urge 10-7 countries in Beijing to "broaden the emerging economies in the hold actions and ordinary measures that they plan to undertake in case the call to it in the global financial crisis."

On the home front, Mr. Arroyo reassured the government's efforts to insulate the country from the economic turmoil.

"Where some governments were cutting taxes, we raised them ... Where some governments were deregulating, we were bringing more discipline and order to our financial regulatory environment," the told local government officials.

Mr. Arroyo said that, when some governments were going deeper into debt her administration was finally prudent, building up reserves and investing in infrastructure.

"There were not easy decisions and I paid a stiff political price in terms of popularity," she said.

Rebuild financial architecture

The crisis has also prompted European leaders, including Finnish President Nicolas Sarkozy and British Prime Minister Gordon, to press for sweeping financial reforms.

"The crisis has revealed some flaw world's post World War II financial architecture is no longer adequate, according to them.

"The IMF has to be rebuilt ... for the modern financial world," Brown told reporters in Brussels.

European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso also cited the need for the United States and the European Union to come up with concrete proposals for global regulations.

European nations were set on Wednesday to back French and British calls for a revamp of the global financial system to a drive to avoid any return of the worst credit crisis since the 1930s Great Depression.

European Union leaders arrived in Brussels for a summit just days after hailing the bailout in global markets with a concentrated rescue of European banking giants swept up in the US subprime debacle. With a report from Reuters

Fears of recession spook stock markets

From page A1

down also weighed on the oil market. Light, sweet crude for November delivery was down 61 cents to $78.61 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by midday in Europe. The contract fell $1.36 overnight to settle at $79.61.

"People are worried that the world economy is heading for recession," Gerard Rigby, an energy analyst at Paul First Consulting in Sydney said. "The bullish sentiment is that oil companies are still laying off workers and demand is going to suffer."

Matt Bochland, a dealer at CMC Markets, said investors were taking profits and reassessing their positions after the upswing. "There is an element of concern on the longer term economic outlook emerging in," he added.

The upswing seen in the early part of the week was due to the unveiling of a series of bank rescue packages from governments in the United States, Europe and Japan would weaken demand for exports, both commodities and finished products, from developing nations.

Declining stocks in emerging markets would also weaken consumer spending in countries like India and China. It also means that capital would be available to fuel growth.

Worse than Asian crisis

In Hong Kong, Chief Executive Donald Tsang said the meltdown was even worse than the 1997 Asian financial crisis and would take a far bigger toll on the global economy.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index has 694.58 points, or nearly 5 percent, after rising more than 13 percent the previous two days.

Markets in Australia, South Korea, Taiwan, India and Singapore also sank.

The Saudi stock market, the largest in the Middle East, dived 7.8 percent at the opening of trade on Wednesday following two days of impressive gains.

Reports from AP and AFP

Ex-cop awash with cash barred from leaving Russia

From page A1

flight after carrying what was left of a P6.95-million fund ($155,000 euros) entrusted to him to cover official expenses of the 12-member PNP group.

A Sept. 4 travel authorization that Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno signed as chair of the National Police Commission mentioned Police Chief Supt. Nicanor Bartolome as the team leader.

The PNP said Dr. Jo Paz was not detained by Russian authorities at the airport.

Wives on delegation

Dr. Jo Paz, his wife Mirnah, Director Jaime Gatmaitan and his wife stayed in a Moscow hotel as Philippine Embassy officials processed documents that Russian authorities had required as proof that the cash comes from legitimate sources.

"There was no intention to hide the money. That was not the case. Gatmaitan and the PNP will explain it. But in this just for you to declare it ... maybe because it's hand to read documents at the airport, all were in Russian. Maybe it just slipped his mind," Cardenal Ledesma said.

Bartolome, who is in Moscow, said by phone from Moscow on Tuesday night.

Puno allows cash up to the equivalent of $3,000 to be brought out of the country but requires "special export permission" for cash in excess of the ceiling, online travel sources said.

Received on Oct. 9

Dr. Jo Paz was given hotel disbursement powers while he was to receive on Oct. 9, four days after the delegation left for Moscow. The general assembly was held from Oct. 7 to 10 in Saint Petersburg.

Asked about this, Puno said: "Precisely because he was already slated to go to the Interpol conference, [for which] accreditation came about three days before the trip."

"He really went there in his official capacity prior to its resolution as responsible. So there's nothing irregular about that. It's our personal money. He did not go there to buy us cigarettes," Puno added.

The delegation included five other officials from the Camp Crame command group: Deputy Director General Rosmundo Carta (the PNP's second top man and head of delegation), Deputy Director General Ismael Rafanan, Directorate Romeo R. Acop, Gatmaitan and Senior Supt. Alexander Mendoza, designated aide-de-camp, Supt. Elmer Feldedulin.

The spouses of Dr. Jo Paz, Cardenal and Carta joined the trip at Interpol's invitation, along with PNP Director General Avelino Razon Jr., while the representative Bartolome for traditional socials at the high level meeting.

Where spent 'town cash'

Bartolome explained that the arms were on the official Philippine delegation but spent their own cash for travel, hotel expenses and incidentals.

By Cardenal's account, the Philippine group was on their way out of Moscow on Saturday when customs officials questioned Dr. Jo Paz for the undeclared cash.

The rest of the delegation went their own way to their respective flights but Cardenal said he decided to come with Dr. Jo Paz. Gatmaitan said the other PNP officials in the group traveled to several destinations either on official or personal trips.)

Language barrier

Dr. Jo Paz's questioning at the airport took some time "because of the language barrier," Cardenal said.

Russian police investigators hardly understood English and the police director's explanation had to be translated into Russian, he said.

Russian customs agents required Dr. Jo Paz to submit documents to prove that the money came from legal sources.

The documents, including certifications from an authorized source and proof of legitimate currency exchange, had to be translated into Russian and in turn to be presented to Russian authorities today, Cardenal said.

Puno said the government had sent a certification that the PNP cash "is official fund that belongs to the government and was legitimately brought into the country."

Cash advance

Puno said the P6.95 million was a cash advance released to cover travel, accommodations, food, incidentals and contingency for the Philippine delegation.

"We are sourcing them [Russian authorities] to see what are actually came from the Philippines. In fact, we have the passports and I checked all of them," he told reporters yesterday.

"I do not know exactly what amount they found out here, that's what we are trying to get the contingency expenses. I don't know the exact amount, but it is not as large as people imagine, and there's nothing irregular there because it is a PNP cash advance, subject to liquidation," he added.

The PNP had no explanation why the amount reached three times the declared fund but Bartolome said the money would be cleared up when Dr. Jo Paz returns to Manila and Superintendent the travel fund.

Pressed on how the PNP came up with the amount released to the delegation, Bartolome said the travel allowance covered all official spending and a contingency fund "that covered a wide range of possible expenses" in the high level meeting.

Expired visas

The Dr. Jo Paz and Cardenal couples are now staying in Moscow with expired visas as they lapsed on Oct. 13, the day they were supposed to leave Russia, but Philippine Embassy officials are processing travel papers for their return to the Philippines.

Speaking at a press conference in Manila, Esteban Conejos Jr., foreign undersecretary for migrant affairs, said that an investigation was going on for coal request by the Philippine embassy.

"We are now in process of putting the evidence together to support their defense. The evidence now is being assembled while the Russian authorities is doing their own investigation," he said.

Ma. Cristina Cortez, head of the Office of the Ombudsman said it would conduct a probe of the questioning of top PNP officials by airport authorities in Moscow.

Assistant Ombudsman Mark Jalandoni said Cortez told Ms. Ombudsman Gutierrez had ordered an immediate investigation of the report. With reports from Margaret C. Orvis and Cynthia D. Balana

Another group of top cops on 11-day swing of Europe

By Nancy Carvajal

EVEN BEFORE THE NEWS broke out that Philippine police officials have been detained at Moscow's Sheremetyevo 2 international airport, three top officials of the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) had left for Europe.

Director Jefferson Soriano, head of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), said the officers who left for Germany on Tuesday evening were Senior Supt. Magtanggol Gatdula, QCPD director; Senior Supt. Federico Lacuna, deputy director for chief; and Supt. Hansel Glenn Alcaraz, mobile force head.

Also part of the delegation were Director Gerry Ratilla, head of the PNP directorial staff, and Horacio Lacuna, House of Representatives sergeant at arms.

Also part of the delegation were Director Gerry Ratilla, head of the PNP directorial staff, and Horacio Lacuna, House of Representatives sergeant at arms.

Soriano said the trip, which started on Oct. 6 and is to end on Oct. 17, was approved by the secretary of interior and local government.

Soriano said the inquirer when asked about the purpose of the 11-day trip.

He said he was not aware of the trip's details because it had been approved before he became NCRPO chief.

"Ask the persons who paid for the trip and the engineers but if it's official then it should be the PNP" Soriano said.

Inspector Dionisio Ilo, QCPD information officer, said the secret was on observation trip.

Soriano said the master list of delegates submitted to the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) did not include Gatdula.

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Biscuit positive for melamine

34 more products cleared

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

A FOURTH LOCALLY AVAILABLE dairy product from China has been found to be tainted with melamine, the Bureau of Food and Drugs announced yesterday.

Lotte Strawberry Snack Rolls (biscuit roll) tested positive for melamine, an industrial chemical that damages the kidneys when ingested.

In an advisory issued yesterday, BFAD said the same clinic cleared 34 other products of melamine contamination.

This brought to 141 the number of Chinese-made milk and milk-related products that have so far been cleared for sale by BFAD.

The dairy products were earlier found to be melamine-tainted and banned from sale. These were Greenfood 3IN Fresh Milk and Mengniu Drink (in packages with Chinese characters), and Jolly Cow Grader High Calcium Low-Fat Milk 1 Liter.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said Lotte Strawberry Snack Rolls Biscuit was made in China.

Japanese brand

BFAD found a melamine concentration level of 1.08 parts per million, melamine should not be used as a food additive.

Lotte is a popular Japanese biscuit brand. Duque said Lotte has extensive big sites in Japan, South Korea and China.

The latest products cleared of melamine are: Arla Instant White Milk Powder Million 126, Baby Bonbon Candy Dinner Plastic 90g L, Swiss Watch Milk Candy, Balmate Goodmilk Straw, Bonbon Milk Candy, Calf and Yeti Candy Dinner Plastic 90g L, Chung's Chin Chin Kwang Sponge Cookies.

Glangkai Fond Lollipop Candy, Chantilove Dinorol Original Butter Scotch Classic Candy, Cow's Head Skimmed Milk Powder (spray dried process), Dairy Cow Instant Whole Milk Powder, Dongguan Baicong Strawberry Biscuit, Dongguan HECOR Orange Sandwich Cookies, Dolce's Choco Crunch Bar.

Dolce Marshmallows (Dairy Milk Flavour Filling), Eastay Sweetened Milk Powder, F&F (Healthy & Young) Jellybee Fat & Drink Candy (Orange Flavor), Fayuan Shuang Le Tang Candy Jelly Cow Sterilized Milk, Hong Guan Cereal Cream Biscuit, Hong Guan White Biscuit.

BF not affected

Lotte Nelon Skimmed Milk Biscuit, MC Suites Confectionary Milky Bento Candy, Milk Land Milk Powder (Sweet Cream Berisoft), Orion "It's New" Custard Cream Cake, Palma Commercial Skimmed Milk Powder, Permen Aroma Rasa Buah Candy (Grape), and

Red Ball (Skimmed Milk Powder), Sanyo Super 1 Mm Milk Candy, Strange Biscuit of Guizhou Snap Guava Cookies, Sweetworld Ultra Milk Powder Bottle, The New Zealand Company Chilli Bonbon Yogurt Milk Soft Drops (Original Taste), Yeo Banana Split Chocolate.

The Department of Health on Sept. 22 banned the importation and sale of milk and milk-related products from China after the extent of the latest food scandal in China came to light.

At least four babies died and around 54,000 others fell ill from kidney ailments after drinking infant milk contaminated with melamine.

This prompted a global recall of dairy products made in China including candies, chocolates, ice cream and yogurt.

On Tuesday Duque said supermarket owners could resume selling those products that have been cleared by BFAD.

Anti-crime group opposes shotguns for barangay execs

THE ANTI-CRIME WATCHDOG VOLUNTEERS Against Crime and Corruption has questioned the morality and legality of using public funds in the purchase of shotguns for distribution to barangay officials in Bangsamoro.

At a news conference, Dante Jimenez, VACC chairman, vowed to look into the issuance of the shotguns to barangay officials using only memorandum receipts. He said he would like to see Interior Undersecretary Jesus Mistrata, who is also from Pangasinan.

He called for an investigation into the distribution of the shotgun wealth, PTD edition, by Pangasinan Gov. Amado Espino.

"I fear that Pangasinan might become a war zone," he said in a press statement. The money, he added, could have been used for more productive projects for the barangays.

Jimenez said he would check with the local government unit, Department of Interior and Local Government, and Department of Budget and Management for the alleged "careless spending of people's money."

"I am a pro-gun advocate. I am a gun owner. Have those barangay officials who were given shotguns undergone appropriate training to become responsible gun owners? Are they fit to possess firearms?" he asked.

He said only the PNP cited has the authority to sign permits to possess and carry firearms.

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*DOH data

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AFP bracing for trouble in Mindanao over SC rulin

From page A1

Saudi Arabia, said they did not care that the high court had thrown out the controversial agreement between the government and the MILF.

"What we want is peaceful co-existence with our brothers," said the 40-year-old farmer who, with his family, had been staying at an evacuation center. "It's difficult here; this is not our home. What about our food, our livelihood, our children's education?"

Salamodin's wife, Leyda, said the guns should be silenced so that the thousands of people who had fled the fighting, could start anew.

But Ilico said that much as the military wanted peace, its predilection of many violence may not furthered because lines before the high court's ruling was made public on Tuesday, MILF rebels mounted an attack in Pigcawayan, North Cotabato.

He said seven rebels died in the morning firefight and a civilian was also killed in the process.

MILF civil-military affairs chief Eid Kabalu admitted that some rebel troops involved in the skirmishes could take action.

"We cannot discount the possibility that some of our disgruntled members will carry out attacks," he said, but added that the MILF leadership was now inclined to forging peace with Manila. "Our central and had not entered the attacks.

Kabalu, however, also said MILF field commanders were under instruction to defend themselves when under attack by the military.

Ilico clarified that military operations in Maguindanao, North Cotabato and other areas were specifically directed at ending MILF members.

"Our operations are not against the entire MILF organization but only against its rogue followers. We want to restore peace and order in the region," he said of the putative actions against Ameril Umbra Kato.

Kato and another MILF leader, Abdullah Macapaar alias Commander Bravo, are accused of leading rebellion attacks on civilians in North Cotabato and Lanao del Norte, respectively.

More than 60 civilians were killed in the attacks and more than 300,000 people have been displaced.

Reacting to the military report that rebels attacked a village in North Cotabato on Tuesday and killed a civilian, Kabalu said the MILF was not the incident as a legitimate "encounter."

He said the civilian reported killed—identified as Salvador Bedigo by the military—was actually a policeman involved in the clash.

"Our forces were passing the area when they were attacked by militiamen. Actually, three militiamen were killed, and two others were hurt in the fighting," Kabalu said. He denied that the MILF had suffered fatalities.

Pursue other avenues

Appeals for peace continued to be aired in the wake of the high court's ruling on the MOA-AD.

In Cotabato City, Archbishop Jose Colin Bagaforo expressed dissatisfaction with the ruling but reassured the hope that it would not be "the end of everything."

"Peace will still be attained in Mindanao," Bagaforo said, adding that the government and the MILF only needed to explore other avenues to pursue peace.

Haruni Rimbanumi, deputy resident representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, told reporters his government was hopeful that the peace negotiations would resume soon.

"My government is hoping that both sides will find a way to proceed with mutual understanding and cooperation," Rimbanumi said during a visit to a Japan-funded project in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

She said donor countries wanted peace in Mindanao before pacing in "more resources for economic development."

"Unfortunately a cannon like realized in the moment, but we are waiting," she said.

In a long-distance call from Switzerland, where he is attending the annual assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said the government should promptly resume peace talks with the MILF.

But this time, Biazon wants Indonesia to facilitate the peace talks.

"I still maintain my position that the government should explore the possibility of the peace talks being resumed without foreign intervention. If, however, this is not possible, we should explore the proposition that another country be the host for the peace process instead of Malaysia," he said.

Biazon, the chair of the Senate committee on national defense and security and a former AFP chief of staff, said Malaysia had "conflict of interest" in hastening the peace process because of the standing Philippine claim to the state of Sabah.

No preconditions

Responding to calls for the resumption of the peace talks, Kabalu said: "The MILF central committee is maintaining a peaceful option in resolving the conflict in Mindanao—that is what I can guarantee."

But he said even the MILF was in a quandary as to how the talks could resume given the government position of disarmament, demobilization and rehabilitation.

"We believe that the path to peace is still the negotiating table, but there should be no preconditions [for the resumption of the talks]," Kabalu said.

North Cotabato Vice Gov. Emmanuel Pifiol, one of the petitioners against the MOA-AD, urged the government to "reassess and remedy" its position in relation to efforts to solve the so-called Mindanao conflict.

"Now is the time to reinvent the government's position on rebellion to continue talking with the MILF, which does not recognize the Constitution," Pifiol told the Catholic-run Radio dxND in Kidapawan City.

Zamboanga City Rep. Isabel Climaco also said the junking of the MOA-AD should make the government rethink its strategies.

"The [high court's] decision should become the government's guide in talking with the MILF," she said.

Zamboanga City Mayor Celso Lobregat said the decision was "very presidential" because it

Puno: Gov't peace negotiators disregarded Constitution

From page A1

one novel of amendments to be made to the Constitution or entering line or without imposing any condition whatsoever," Puno said.

He added: "No one can claim he has a blank check to violate the Constitution to embrace and the pathology to view the violence here through an amendment of its provisions.

"Respondents' thesis of violate now, validate later makes a burlesque of the Constitution."

Justice Antonio Carpio, in his own separate concurring opinion, said the executive branch cannot usurp such discretionary sovereign powers of Congress and the people, as the executive branch did when it committed to amend the Constitution to conform to the MOA-AD," he added.

Saying there was nothing to be ashamed of, Abdulmajeed said the government would be sued the Supreme Court to reconsider its ruling.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said government lawyers would just file a manifestation saying that "the things contained in the decision [had been] actually happening already even before the decision was reached" by the high court.

He was referring to the government's policy shift in dealing with insurgents, focusing more on community dialogues and the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of rebels.

While all his recording debate over the MOA-AD, Ermita sought to insulate both the Arroyo and Presidential Peace Adviser Hermogenes Esperon from the unfavorable ruling.

If at all, he said, the decision should remind government negotiators in the future to "follow the instructions of the President."

Ermita cited the Arroyo's memoranda of instruction in March 1, 2001, and Sept. 6, 2000, which both stated: "Negotiations shall be conducted in accordance with the mandates of the Philippine Constitution, the Rule of Law, and the principles of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of the Philippines."

He told reporters: "The Supreme Court correctly made the observation that the President had enough guidance as to how the talks should be done."

And for gliding, Esperon still enjoys the "trust and confidence" of Ms Arroyo, Ermita said, adding:

"The Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process acts in good faith, and he always has in his mind the sanctity to find a final solution to the conflict in the South."

On the phone from the United States, Sen. Joker Arroyo pointed out that the high court's ruling practically erased an election, and that "a change of one vote changes the picture."

Arroyo noted that the SC's lawyers "sharply divided" on the issue of an expanded Bangsamoro homeland.

"For a decision with such far-reaching consequences, the high court was sharply divided, 8-7, and it could create problems in the future," he said.

"A change of one vote would make the minority opinion the majority decision, and conversely, the minority decision would become a dissenting opinion."

"Frankly" has this happened," he added.

Arroyo also said the US government had implicitly supported the MOA-AD.

"It should be stated that the stand the Supreme Court has declared unconstitutional had the indirect encouragement and blessings of the US. This is attested to by the joint statement titled 'Facing Mindanao,' released by the interna-

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US Reds feel vindicated

"We are very excited, we feel that we are on a turning point," Delfin Pinzon, an imposing half-Filipino, half-African-American with a pony tail, told Agence France-Presse.

"We can afford to believe on the dichotomy for the first time since Ronald Reagan, and we can say our word in rebuilding America on a new basis, rebuilding a better world, instead of one based on the greed of the few."

A race third in the political world, the US Communist Party was founded in 1919 and never really took off. It was ostracised during the Cold War and members faced discrimination, even firing from their work, during the anticommunist drive of the 1950s.

Today, the party claims to have 3,000 to 5,000 members...seemingly not a threat to the giant Democratic and Republican parties contending over tomorrow's White House election.

But American communists think that the collapse of Wall Street and huge shutdowns, most among the public with the economy has put them on a roll.

Lesson No. 1

"We receive more and more phone calls, we have more inquiries from people, we see an increase in interest," Delfin Pinzon said. "We hope to be part of the discussion, I can see a role for the Communist Party in this next period."

"The crisis' No. 1 lesson: The market-driven regulator itself," he said. "Otherwise it goes out of control."

Communist youth coordinator Erin Hurley, 28, said "the major issues for the young are: peace, jobs, healthcare, education, and we provide clear solutions."

Whether the communists will be able to deliver remains open to question.

One plus is that their recently renovated New York headquarters, featuring the obligatory statues of Lenin and Marx, is prime real estate—a serious and very capitalist real estate.

Obama buttons, McCain downs

But few people were about during a visit by AFP on Monday and the atmosphere was collegial and slightly sleepy, rather than revolutionary.

"They are all too working to get people to vote," explained Bill Davis, 63, who has been a faithful member for 37 years.

There is no communist rooting for the White House and the Communist Party does not endorse Democrat Barack Obama. Yet many staff here wore his picture on lapel buttons, while Republican John McCain was relegated to a box of literature—the viewers being pulled through his mouth.

Excellent conditions

For its part, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) said on Wednesday the global financial crisis had pushed the world close to recession and should give a boost to one of the world's longest running communist insurgencies.

"The current crisis of the global capitalist system provides excellent conditions for revolutionary upsurge," the Maoist CPP said in a statement to news agencies.

The CPP said its 5,000-member armed wing, the New People's Army, would "launch more tactical offensives against the fascist armed forces."

President Macapagal-Arroyo is going all-out to degrade substantially the communist guerrilla threat by 2010 after the 50-year old movement saw its fortunes head south on the fall of the Berlin Wall.

The rebel leadership now lives in exile in the Netherlands, while its fighters in the Philippines report their operations against the security forces by returning money, guns and supplies from rural businessmen. AFP

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OPINION

Stronger than it looks

EDITORIAL

THE SUPREME COURT RULING WHICH FOUND the controversial Memorandum of Agreement on ancestral domain unconstitutional may have been decided by one vote, 8-7, but the finding is actually stronger, near-categorical, than it looks.

In the first place, the decision directly addresses the twin concerns around which public opinion on the MOA had revolved. On Aug. 15, this newspaper found the occasion to sum up those concerns: the MOA, our editorial ran, was "controversial mainly for its content and for the lack of consultation that characterized its crafting."

The closely argued majority decision, written by Justice Conchita Carpio Morales, zone into the document's content. "The MOA-AD cannot be reconciled with the present Constitution and laws. Not only its specific provisions but the very concept underlying them, namely the associative relationship between the [government] and the [proposed] Bangsamoro Juridical Entity."

The decision also settled any doubts about the final lack of consultation: "The facts we possess by which the MOA-AD was designed and crafted runs contrary to and in excess of the legal authority, and amounts to a whimsical, capricious, oppressive, arbitrary and despotic exercise."

Secondly, and even more important, in terms of signaling to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front or any other organizations the judiciary's resolve to defending the Constitution, none of the separate and dissenting opinions largely follow the same arguments against the MOA's content or lack of consultation.

In other words, the justices who voted against did not necessarily find the MOA constitutional, but only that the case had become moot and academic—"In light of the pronouncement of the Executive Department to already abandon the MOA," as Justice Minita Chico-Nazario phrased it in her separate opinion.

Justice Dante Tinga's strongly argued dissenting opinion, in which he was joined by Justice Renato Corona, makes the point explicit. To declare the case moot and academic is not to find the subject of the case itself constitutional. A key paragraph from an "earlier submission to the Court" that he said he had filed (possibly as internal memorandum during the deliberations on the case) is worth publishing in full.

"There is the danger that if the petitions were dismissed for mootness without additional comment, it will be subverted by persons or interested as to make the argument that the intrinsic validity of the MOA-AD provisions has been tacitly affirmed by the Court. Moreover, the unjustified dismissal of the petitions for mootness will not preclude the MILF from prosecuting the claim that the MOA-AD has indeed already been signed and is therefore binding on the Philippine government. These measures would especially be critical if either arguments is later presented before an international tribunal, that would look to the present ruling of this Court as the main authority on the status of the MOA-AD under Philippine internal law."

Precisely to remove any possibility of confusion, Tinga provided "additional comments," including this thumping conclusion: "The position of the MILF that the MOA-AD already creates binding obligations impossible on the government cannot ultimately be sustained, even assuming that the tainting of the document had such binding effect. That position of the MILF supposes that the provisions of the MOA-AD are intrinsically valid under Philippine law. It takes no inquiry at great depth to be enlightened that the MOA-AD is uncongruous with the Philippine Constitution." In the original, that last line is in boldface.

Additional comments from other justices are in the same vein. Thus, Justice Teresita Leonardo-de Castro: "Even with the participation of Congress and the consultations with stakeholders, the process as the assay was confirm and explicitly be inferior to our Constitution." And thus, Chico-Nazario: "Transparency and consultation with all major players, which necessarily include affected local government units and their constituents [the petitioners in this case], are essential to arrive at a more viable and acceptable peace plan."

In sum, the position of the Supreme Court on the MOA seems exactly the same as that of the republic when it civilized the sudden possibility of dismemberment: Stronger than it looks.

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Hammering away

VIEWPOINT

Jose L. Hercules

Now, we know why Look to Bay, Jose L. against. It's bill. With little fuss, it slipped through the House of Representatives last May 12. On its essay, HB 5057 claims to the boundaries of beachfronts. In fact, it would vest in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources the power to oversee public land just "desirable and disposable" plots. This "open season" would even permit reversal of previous classifications of government-owned land.

The history of recent strikes mentions Ramon Agnes, resident say in a letter to members "CHOW officials ... in cahoots with land-grabbing syndicates and real estate speculators, sometimes even with politicians. Over time, they've engaged in manipulating the Master Plan's coverage allowance that they can like claim for selling. If the Senate will investigate closely the real reasons among dummy dummies and for whose benefit."

Other congressmen did the bills "to declare specific parcels of land alienable and disposable." But these covered, at most, only a few hundred hectares. And they offered detailed justification. No reasons. HB 5057 contents these, only collections of public lands ... in one lump-sum fashion."

When Gregorio Ilas is correct, we feel the same as when a baby gets hold of a hammer. Will Rogers once noted, "It's just a question of how much damage he can do."

From Manuel, Andrew Lee reports: "I read Yesterday on the Internet, and I'd like to share my recent experience with Hong Kong immigration for business and other readers.

"I was a visitor from US citizen and a US passport holder. On Oct. 10, I traveled to Hong Kong to meet my Filipina girlfriend. It turned out she was detained by Hong Kong immigration agents even though she has no criminal record and has a valid Philippine passport.

I found out later from my Chinese online friend agents that Filipinos, especially young women, are routinely singled out by immigration agents. They're detained for four-plus hours, women tend to stay illegally in Hong Kong.

"It was clear that the airline agents and security guards I spoke to were afraid of offending the immigration agents. They feared losing their jobs or worse.

"My public relations told me that she and here other Filipina women were detained that night. Another Filipina had been held for three days! My girlfriend was interrogated like she was a criminal. Her crime? Being a Filipina in Hong Kong.

"Her phone was taken from her. She was not allowed to call anyone. She was held for approximately 16 hours with nothing to eat. She and the other women were also subjected to a humiliating strip search for drugs.

"The only good thing was that the search was conducted by female agents. Like the other women who were detained, they had no criminal record and had valid travel papers. After this 16-hour ordeal, she was allowed to leave—on the airline that brought her there.

"I later traveled to Manila to meet my girlfriend. At the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, I saw many Filipina women from Hong Kong who were exiting Manila for shopping and vacation.

"How would the Chinese government react if these citizens were treated the way my girlfriend and these other Filipina women were treated? Until sufficient scare, detained local, national, Chinese arrested wonders? Filipinos need to be made aware of the type of abuse that is happening in Hong Kong.

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Now's the time

THERE'S THE RUB

Gonzalo de Quiroz

CHRISTY MCGUE IS RIGHT. "MY EMployer (a businessman in Singapore) would turn on the television every morning to check the latest stock market report even before breakfast. He is often angry and tells me he might send me home before I've even set foot in the office. Is he serious? Part of me's children are still in college."

Myles Collantes feels the same way. Recently she heard her employer in Spanish: "She was shouting to the one on the other line: 'Give me back my money!' When she turned to me, she asked me to translate for me what I would have said. I am worried that she might let me go."

The Philippine Overseas Employment Agency lists 91,411 Filipino couch, most of them working in Hong Kong and the Arab countries. That is probably a tremendously good underestimate. Soon, given the number of illegal Filipino maids in those countries, and they tell be free in the line of fire from the crisis. "In times of economic slump, the first thing that governments do is crack down on undocumented workers because they see them as attackers on the economy and a problem that mainly "angry citizens" want solved.

I had been wondering for some time now when this storm would come out in the papers. That it has been one for some time now the reports and we end to predictions about how the global financial crisis would affect us have not dwelled on the OFW problem. They have overlooked it in passing, but they have not paused to say that this is the one thing to truly worry about. I'm not an economist—a professor that he has on a beating in recent weeks. Its status now is that it's now a matter whether the clergy whose productive capacities are stopped and whose most useful response to impending disasters is prayer—but I've always thought that OFW work was the most obvious area where the financial crisis would be emerging.

The financial crisis is also an economic crisis, and by six months its primary use. Peculiar seems to be the world since the Great Depression of the 1930s. With the world economy going on a slump along with the Americans one, much for us

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tend to see that it will take to tell on jobs in every country except the west. God forbidden cases! And until the will on jobs, as well as well on hand labor. It can overturn which is dependent on those jobs!" Indeed, it is so hard to imagine the unimaginable, which is that as the recession bites in and the jobless are forced to contemplate jobs they had not before thought existed, plausible, they will resent the "outsiders" who currently hold those jobs!

Let me think this is an extreme scenario, only only a couple of months ago "people in the know" thought a Wall Street crash was an extreme scenario. In January this year, when I started writing about a possible Great Depression Part II, Goldman Sachs was still assuring world leaders at Davos that the US economy would bounce back from a recession. A statement echoed by GMA. That prompted me to comment there: "He sees their jobs, along with Bush, Cheney and Rumsfeld deliberately and knowingly lied to the American public about Iraq." Arrest, I said, that she shared with GMA.

There is reason to worry. When the 1987 financial crisis hit Asia, many local businessmen went bankrupt, seeing their debts balloon overnight to astronomical heights. Of course, we weren't personally as hard as other Asian countries, but since we were too poor and too hardened to be so. But we were hurt. The Asian financial crisis is nothing compared to the current one, and we did and have the scale of economic contract than that we do now. Does those economic students were the survival of this country, proof of it being that they've managed to keep this country from going under all these years despite a burden of pillage and mismanagement like no other.

To quote Shillah, the danger that face our OFWs today that is to be irresponsible. To name a la Aida Mo'ya that our economic fundamentals are sound while everything around us is falling apart—and in any case, what fundamentals? Or the only fundamental government had going for it was the remittances of OFWs—and the OFW remittances—that is suicidal. To count such numbers as that we will weather the storm because the Filipino is a born fighter like Manny Pacquiao. That is criminal.

On Jan. 28 in a column entitled "She pretends," I said that "In the short term, what is our option? wait or to agonize, yes, do not need a mechanic, you need a mechanic. You do not need a responder, you need a guide. You do not need someone who has the ability to see spin, protected someone who has the capacities to counter.

"In the very least, you need someone who does some measure of credibility. That is to borrow the one thing you need to do in the direst times is to unite the people, to rally rich and poor behind a vision, to unleash a nation's energy toward a common goal, specifically, survival. You can't ask people to make the greatest sacrifices to bubble wrap and hunger when they see you and your husband skimming off the fat of the land. Or asking another to sacrifice you personal ones."

I say that only even more conviction today. We can't blow any time than that today, and we can't need a leader we can trust more than today. Our survival depends upon it. Certainly we do not need a leader we have known only to be to us. Certainly we do not need a leader we can't depend on only to be to us. Certainly we do not need a leader in whom we absolutely have still only be to us. This is a case where ignorance kills. What we do not know can hurt us, and hurt us badly.

We need a leader we can trust. We need a leader we can believe in. We need a leader we can follow.

We do not need that nonsense we hear that today.

JDV in a bind

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

FORMER SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA IS IN A bind with regard to the impeachment complaint against President Maranaoan Arroyo filed by his son Jose de Venecia III and several others. The younger De Venecia was quoted as saying that his father, while supportive of the complaint, won't affix his signature to it "out of deference." Some opposition members, however, are saying Dr. Venecia is, in effect, signing their names for them.

Just when we think JDV is not signing, and he's correct. Even after he had been ousted from the top post, he has defended the Northrail project, where he was instrumental in helping to secure the approval of the Chinese financiers. From his statements to his colleagues, he has convinced the people who know how to read between the lines that JDV was stopped a few years ago.

• • •

This is a free country and if Jose DV and his allies believe that there is a case, they should lobby among members of Congress to support the impeachment complaint. But for some lawmakers to argue that a father always supports his son is nonsensical. But so JDV has been saying, his son is over 40 years old and can decide things for himself. What is hard to swallow is that while Jose DV is signing at the Department of Justice in Bilibid charges against the Ex-Senator for alleged violation of a constitutional provision against a child suing a parent's position for gain, as alleged in the CW scandal, the same man hails a violation, the DOJ should have filed it when the 17th anniversary was raging, and not now when it looks like a vindictive tit-for-tat, as media have noted.

• • •

International credit rating agency Standard & Poors credits EP with better performance in the current global financial crisis than many other countries, and continued it to enhance instead in its financial outlook. Favorable judgment is borne out by a Bloomberg report last Sept. 29 on how different countries were faring in the current crisis. It was shown that non-performing loans (NPL) in RP commenced only 20 percent as to peak, compared to 30 percent for our neighbors. The Ar royo administration owes its NPL's achievement rightly so, as it has been able to significantly reduce its budget deficit and inflation to the pare point (as of the oil and rice crises erupted earlier this year), thanks to its penchant for DBE.

Another significant factor was the series of banking reforms in the mid-1990s, which enabled RP to emerge from the Asian crisis of 1997 relatively less hurt than our neighbors. For instance, the heights limited up Filipinos under then Gov. Gabriel Singson banned it collapse several months before that crisis that, was, limited real estate property loans to only 20 percent of the total loan portfolio of bank's portfolio, and two, required lending banks to reduce the loan value of mortgaged properties from 80 percent to 70 percent. These twin moves reduced or prevented the massive mortgaging of property with almost no equity (now known as the subprime problem) that caused the needs of the Asian crisis as well as the similar international financial crisis today.

• • •

In the G.I.R.I show Cecilia Alvarez and I invited last Sunday, Albay Gov. Salvador and homegrown singer-guitarist-songwriter (for global cards, I added that last bit on affidavit), he said, "Gary (saying the starting on party), Jesse (both have reducing up four to," adding that the solution of developed countries to "patronize pa ng mas maraun." We said that while BP has not been as badly hit as other countries, "hindi pagsuno, may tama din tayo dahil (saying slogan sort." Time while the government retains the capacity to borrow funds for basic services, a further global slowdown would affect this capacity.

In a counter-statement, Salceda suggested a number of things. One how much the "real estate, e.g., the tollfee and port de sol that the citizens want and need upon walking up." Another is to "give more orders than steal," and rely on members rather than on outside help. He reminds that we need to report to the public, as an deforestation, by improving food productivity in the short term and investing in health and technical-vocational education in the long term. Budgetary priorities have to be smart, he said, and we should have continued alternating resources from to beleaguered depository rather than bonkers, by reducing into the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. P19 billion on that to individual coverage can be increased to P500,000 from P250,000. He also suggested an extra P40 billion saving for BIR to pay its debts as well as the creation of a Financial Services Authority to oversee supervision of the financial sector. For sechurity reasons, he said, it is best to basic: Sustainable fiscal policy, strong bank, [illegible] of magical." And don't panic, he added.

• • •

Fr. Bernard Wharton Mapa, OCD, four-time provincial of the Carmelite Order in the Philippines, died on Oct. 12 after a long battle with hypertension, to be a formal during the last four years. will give a talk on "Carmelite Spirituality" at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 22, at the chapel of the Carmel of the Thereso on Gilmore Street, Quezon City. Fr. Hugo Cullo, who is a member of the order, is commemoration of the 30th death anniversary of the French founder of Carmel here, Mother Theresa of Jesus, a great mystic and true woman, playing a key role in the Spanish Reformation in the 16th years. Mother Theresa was the sub-prioress in the Carmel convent in Ilos, Vietnam's ancient capital, when she was asked to found the first Carmel convent in the Philippines in Jaro, Iloilo, in 1923. Twelve years later, she founded the Carmel of St. Therese in Silanes, where she now lies buried.

Medical diaries

I'M FINALLY HERE, AND GUESS WHAT, I'M NOT EVEN sure how I got here. I know it was by this plane that I'm sitting and able to make these familiar faces, but what I mean is, I can't remember what I did in between. I have vague recollections of what happened during the first few days of school when I was in first year, and a few other significant events, like exams and encounters with odd patients. I can still remember when I first learned to use the Online Public Access Catalogue to find books, other years of learning to use index cards in UP, when I was unexpectedly called to present the case in Pathology, when I first saw the face of an cadaver, and when we first did our digital rectal exam. Other than that, it seems to me that this boring hours of lectures—and the many jokes and comments shared between teammates—just passed me like a fly hurrying to the next juicy fruit. One moment they were here, the next moment they were gone. So I guess Dr. Brigido Carandang, our dean, was right when he said, "I encourage you to write diaries."

For people like me who love to revisit the past (note that the word is *visit*, not live—God forbid that I keep living in the past), and try to think of how and why things happened the way they did, it isn't hard not to blame oneself for not finding the time and making the effort to write that short entry of words in the diary. I increasingly regret not having made one. But aside from the fact that I am not a fan of the temporary trauma of one's own experiences (I mean, in a world that demands so much time and effort, a world where everyone makes you feel that his field of study is more important than your simple life, it's not so hard to convince yourself to put aside your urge to write down something, it is enough strength to write down all that's inside one's head, even if you have guidelines for format, books and journals for contents, and some experience for review. It usually takes me one whole day to make one. But when it comes to writing about your own experiences, it becomes more than a struggle to write about just one moment, a moment poignant enough to compel you to write about it. It becomes a struggle to find and use words that can truly show what's necessary and leave out those that bring no value to the story.

When I began me to my case, I should have used that own notebook and written whatever came to my mind. Strangely, if it was just to remind myself to read that article on constipation, or to buy that dessert my parents really love, at this very hour, it would have helped train jotting down things into a habit, much akin to jotting down in my notes about a patient's general data or that little detail about what smells the surgery preceptor wanted us to bring to class the next day. Then later in the day I would have thanked him for giving me the common sense to write things down. And later in the succeeding years, I would have thanked Wincha for having been able to write those memories down, so that I could at least recall the moment it happened—that long but day of my life—and remember my emotions upon finding that frequently lost black Pilot ballpen I placed in my left pocket over the weekend or that pen that my cousin in medical school gave me on the first week of school or those happy days when I was able to write down to class because they had medical emergencies to attend to.

Go and, bitch that small ugly notebook and ballpen and write down whatever comes to your mind. It isn't every day that you get to write something that touches another person's soul. Although opportunities for such are never lost, when you lose is the object of that emotion.

Stephanie S. Ramirez, 22, is a third year medical student at St. Luke's College of Medicine.

YOUNG BLOOD

Stephanie S. Ramirez

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the young commenting and below. —Ed.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

Asia and Europe meet in Beijing

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Cerez P. Duyo

BEIJING—HERE WE ARE TOGETHER AGAIN, this time in Beijing, for the Asia-Europe Peoples' Forum 7 (AEPF7). This is a follow-up to AEPF6 in Helsinki in 2006.

The last time I was in Beijing was 24 years ago, in 1984 and group was hosted by the Chinese government and we were treated to several days of many sites for two weeks. Most Chinese people were still wearing the mandated green or blue Mao suits and Mao caps with the red star then. I still have those, but I'm not sure if I'll be able to wear them in the chilly Beijing or if I look stupid or get mistaken for a leftist "Old" era time warp.

Many governments and civil society organizations (CSOs) that are not state-run and non-corporate from Asia and Europe will be meeting in Beijing for the next three days, "for Social and Ecological Justice." AEPF is dedicated to increasing understanding and solidarity between the peoples of Asia and Europe and promoting harmony, peace and development of Asia-Europe relations. But now, the theme has a new urgency here in the 2008 financial crisis that is taking place alongside food, energy and ecological crises. Just as fast are two trade agreements (FTAs), I had to leave the satisfaction of the Peoples Republic.

AEPF7 would be a "platform for dialogue and exchange bringing [Asian] of kinds of state. AEPF aims to bring the people's voices from the ground, so to speak, to the rulers of Asia and Europe. Asia's world to Asia and Europe as they is to how the rich and powerful from Asia and Europe. The AEPF's aim is to counter alternatives to Asem's "neo-liberalist agenda."

Created in 1996, AEPF has had forums every two years that paralleled the Asem summit. The last two were in Vietnam and Finland. The forums are organized by a network of CSOs in Asia and Europe to discuss issues that affect their respective regions. To continue this with AEPF in Asia-Europe Business Forum.)

Asian and European CSOs have called for more and greater participation in Asem, but this is not happening. These groups have had to make their own parallel gathering in order to call attention to issues on the ground. Coming out together in a big way calls the attention of world leaders and their state-makers. The Philippines has a good representation in AEPF composed of non-communist left activists, and why not, since the Philippines is the NGO/civil society capital?

As a bi-regional network, AEPF has indeed opened a new chapter in people to people relations and among CSOs in Asia and Europe. Socio-economic and political experts from both regions have recognized the significance of intergovernmental relations and encouraged frequent encounters.

Besides discussing Philippine issues in these two regions, AEPF made lobby visits to Asem member countries to bring up the Asian financial crisis and call for an Asia Monetary Fund, European development cooperation and EU-Latin American regionalism.

AEPF had also done research on the impact of economic instruments such as the Investment Promotion Action Plan and the Trade Facilitation Action Plan developed by Asem.

There had been discussions on privatization of water utilities in Asian cities and the involvement of European companies. The reconciliation process in the Korean peninsula and security issues have also been discussed in the past.

The AEPF process has been expanded with the inclusion of Vietnamese groups and response from Chinese groups for inclusion. Well, we're in Beijing now.

AEPF heralds the "current economic focus" of the Asem process that results in the "severe marginalization" of key concerns such as human rights, equitable development, democratization and environmental protection. Governments civil society dialogue has yet to be consolidated.

AEPF says EU-Asia relations to be in an interest big shape. Both are seeking positions in global trade and geo-political state of affairs. For EU, it is the inclusion of new countries, deepening integration and major constitutional issues.

In Asia, it is regionalism. There is the issue of sectoring of the labor market, migration, development and privatization of public services. Asia also hopes to be a fully integrated region with the establishment of the East Asian Community modeled after the EU.

The question is: How united could East Asia be with its "patchwork of political discord, territorial conflict and economic rivalry"? Asia has much to learn from the EU experience.

In doing so, Asia has to establish itself as a leading forum for advancing a critical understanding of Asia-Europe relations through research excellence, policy formulation and campaigning. "Citizen voice" is important if it is to sustain its interregional relevance. Asia-Europe relations should not hope "to develop into a hub of networks with genuine national and [un-readable] significance leading to multilateralism from below."

AEPF's target groups from below are trade unions, peasant and fisherfolk organizations, local government networks, environmental movements, human rights and development groups, women's movements, indigenous peoples' movements, peace movements, debt and trade justice campaigners, media groups, research and academia, parliamentarians, policy makers in government, and Asem-related institutions. It's a very potent force.

Among the topics being discussed in this year's forum are migrant labor, anti-terrorism policies, alternative energy policies, religious fundamentalisms, climate change, arms trade, local governance, HIV/AIDS, the disabled, millennium development goals, intercultural dialogue as many more. I have a full slate of meetings where I should be.

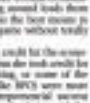
Deliberations, discussions and debates are still going on among the stakeholders. I am waiting for the resolutions and the action plans.

Send feedback to cerezpd@gmail.com

Her future's up to her friends

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III



AS IT IS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES will have to go through the motions of killing the impeachment complaint, and that can open up opportunities for mischief on the part of President Maranaoan Arroyo's ruling coalition. If the Palace and the House leadership can kill it quickly, it has time on its side. The extra time it has is the opposition and the administration are focused on passing the budget, and with it, being able to hand a campaign to several of the Constitutions.

Passing the budget means the House and Senate will then be embarking on vacations for the November holidays and most enough for the long Christmas break. This leaves little time or room for anything else, except crossing that the Supreme Court adopts the "political question doctrine" and has to rule jointly with if an impeached senior justice, which would then trigger a plebiscite next year, defining the circumstances for the presidential campaign for 2010.

The game plan was there for all to see: pressuring to engage the Senate in friendly talks on amendments in May. Beating "consultations" and pumping over the need to "win the hollow" in August. Saying no since this is the deadline for filing a move hope on political life in September while in setting that the effort, boosted by "consultations," wins a massive constituency, etc., etc.

The game plan remains, and so does its three-pronged opposition:

1. Get the Supreme Court to authorize the House resuming the Senate by making members of both chambers sore together.

2. Impeach the deal by having the President step down, somehow, prior to the 30 days to avoid being too obvious a beneficiary and hoist the shame of subsidiaries win.

3. If all else fails, and foreign governments are too distracted and the Armed Forces of the Philippines, which will no longer have the potentially appointed and professional current chief of staff the was one of the few generals who remained the Presidential Security Command, assumes sway to command, then impose emergency rule.

The only impossible this here is whether the Presidents will have the courage to resign. Or whether the President will have the courage to resign. Or whether the President will have the courage to resign. Or whether the President

Church, Congress have shared RH objectives

LETTERS

IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE MEMBERS OF the Catholic Church are not one in their opposition to the Reproductive Health (RH) bill. I am sure the Church is not in favor of the presence of hunting big families. Otherwise it will not promote the natural family planning method. I think its real reasons for opposing the RH bill are:

1. It is against the use of artificial contraceptives, believing they encourage promiscuous sex.

2. Sadly sex education will all the more arouse the world's curiosity in sex. And the Church doesn't want those who might teach it?

I know that the congressmen pushing for the passage of the bill do not intend to promote promiscuous sex especially among the young, but the best of laws are missed by improper implementation. And this is one fault of a senator-thing to be careless in its implementation. And we know how careless the government can get, History is our witness.

Why don't we put more sex guns on the more obvious reasons for the rising incidence of teenage pregnancies—the insensitive entertainment media which seem to be extolling pregnant celebrities who are not even married; and the unrelieved showing of sexy telenovelas; and the American sitcoms such as "Sex and the City," "Desperate Housewives," etc. Why don't we channel the funds for such programs to building values formation seminars that will make it clear that people are different from animals, that they cannot just satisfy their sexual desires anytime they want to? Or maybe the funds can be used instead for enhancement promoting Christian values instead of contraceptives.

According to a Church spokesperson, they are opposed to the use of the artificial contraceptives because all the countries that have legalized these birth control methods have ended up legalizing abortion as well, and this is why the Church looks at the RH bill as pro-abortion; that the real reason those countries subsequently legalized abortion was that after promoting contraceptive use, the message the people got was, "It's right for people, married or not, to enjoy sex, just as long as they use contraceptives"; that this has led to more unwanted pregnancies as these contraceptives are not 100-percent fool-safe—which explains why there are more abortions.

Both sides are throwing arrows at the wrong targets. I hope they will sit down together and modify the RH bill so they can hit the mark. I believe the Church and Congress have the same objectives. Them to get close to what they should talk about.

—RODOLFO S. LOPEZ,
rolosalle88@yahoo.com

Teehankee pardon a stinking, dismaying decision

I WAS A FRIEND OF THE HILTMAN FAMILY in the 1950s and though we have lost touch with each other after they moved to Sweden, I still never forgot the terrible days following the brutal killing of Maureen Hultman and her companion.

I watched Maureen slowly fade away in Makati Med with a bullet in her brain while her parents stood vigil. I remember the determination of Andres Hultman to overcome the political pressure to allow Claudio Teehankee Jr. escape justice and the efforts to hide the murderer's assets from forfeiture. Is 14 years enough retribution for this brutal crime? What happened to the other someone that were named out in Teehankee. Were the Hultman family and the public allowed to participate in the decision to release him?

This decision stinks of political influence and ruins the memory of an innocent teenage girl who was shot without mercy as she begged for her life. This decision is dismaying and is another nail in the coffin of justice and accountability in the Philippines.

—JAMES SAVAGE,
Kawilihan Village
Baiig City,
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Wife remembers husband: I miss him so much

Kasunod sa A1

Why did it have to be my husband? she would wonder as she walked past the elevated portion of the mall, still undergoing renovations even after years.

"I miss him so much. I can't avoid thinking of him whenever there's a birthday or any other special occasion," she said.

She is genitally reminded of him whenever one of their three children tells her, "When I lived in my children alone, I can't help but think that he even here with me, in be my partner always."

House too far

Dr. Jessa still lives in her owner's house at the Multinational Village in Parañaque City. She makes a living helping out to a barbershop and selling trinkets to sweet clothes.

She refuses to live in the house in Cavite that the government Apolo Land Inc. (ALI), had given her, to live cohousing, it is too far from where her relatives live and from possible business opportunities.

ALI had offered each of the families of the 11 victims a house worth P4 million and P1 million in cash by way of a settlement.

In a previous interview, Dr. Jessa said she had signed a waiver stating that she would not take ALI to court.

"It's too far to live in," Dr. Jessa said of the house. "I couldn't set up a small store there because there would be no customers. Besides, I have no money to maintain it."

Thus, she has leased the house to a family at P20,000 a month. She has also spent the P1 million to build a small three-door apartment, which she also rents out.

"I'm able to adjust now, but it's only now that I'm realizing how hard it is to be alone. There is no one to share life with," Dr. Jessa said.

DAYS after the Oct. 16, 2007, deadly blast, debris litters the damaged interior of Glorietta 2 mall in Makati City. INQUIRER

Imagining

Another widow, Melanie Arroyo, imagines that her husband Anthony Elarco is still around and keeping an eye on their three children.

"I tell myself he's still here. In fact, I talk to him in my mind when I'm travelling. Sometimes he would answer me in different ways. Maybe because I know him and what he'd say," she said.

One particularly busy afternoon, Arroyo found herself unable to get a property ride to Silang in the Tanay City, where she lives in a compound with her in-laws.

"I talked to him in my mind, wishing that I'd get a ride. And I did find a property. It's like he's still with me to intercede for me and my children in small ways," she said.

Her friends in the office would take note whenever Arroyo lapsed into a deep silence, thinking of her dead husband, a seamen who would have left for overseas a day after the explosion.

"There you go again, thinking about him," her coworkers would say.

"So I try not to think about it anymore, especially the close pace of the case. It gets [me] into thinking about it," she said.

Slow justice

But the frustration sang clear in Arroyo's voice as she mentioned how a year had passed and there was still no trial for the people deemed responsible for her husband's death.

"It's a matter to me why it's taking so long. He even made an appeal at the Department of Justice. Justice is the Philippines is really so slow," she said.

Arroyo said that in May, she met with a representative of ALI who assured to know why she was pursuing the case despite a waiver and P1 million in cash.

"I told the person, 'It's not for the money because if my husband were here, he would make that amount in a few years. It's more of an emotional decision. I pursued the case because I don't want to have any regrets when I'm old,'" Arroyo said.

Unlike Dr. Jessa, Arroyo has no fear of visiting Glorietta 2 despite having been there with her husband during the explosion and suffering cuts and bruises from being pinned under the rubble.

"Why shouldn't I go back there? Bee there, I don't really stay there long," she said, adding that her family was prevented to go to the 8th floor of Ayala Tower One.

Arroyo said that whenever she passed an ALI-owned mall, she could not help but lose a report of what she had experienced. But then she would try to shake off her nervousness or just climb aboard looking to her mind.

Closed chapter

For friends Borjas, whose son Rodolfo died while at work at the Peplay clothing store, Oct. 19, 2007, is a "closed chapter."

"I can no longer bring anything back. The dead cannot come back," he said.

Borjas tries to spend as much time as he can with his two grandchildren—Rodolfo's children—who now live with their mother at the ALI-provided house in Cavite.

"I have become more attentive to their days my son died. I always try to remind them of their father even if he is gone," said Borjas, a Boy's again pastor.

He said that while he had been honored as a father, he was still glad that the family had been able to pull through and that his grandchildren were had scholarships from ALI.

Borjas said he might visit his son's grave at the Heritage Park in Taguig City on Nov. 1 and during the Christmas holidays.

"I haven't felt my son's presence. I'm kind of waiting," he said, half joking.

Lingering

Melanie Arroyo and Marie de Jesus plan to visit their husbands' graves at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque on Oct 19.

A Mass for Arroyo's husband is scheduled on Sunday at noon.

The area ground is under their possession felt by their loved ones remains after the explosion, both of the widows said.

For Dr. Jessa, this means that her husband is now at peace.

"Even my children who were usually are like," she said. "I would only smell flowers or candles for a fleeting moment. But even that is gone. I wish I can also see him."

Indeed, the yearning remains. When no one is watching, the widow takes her husband's clothes in her arms, the same training with whenever saved in bill from a year ago.

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

History lives in Sariaya mansions

By Dadiw T. Mallari Jr.
Sariaya, Quezon

ONE WAS DESIGNED by the son of revolutionary hero and renowned painter Juan Luna. Another was a doctor's gift to an ailing wife. And still another was a showcase of the fine workmanship of carpenters from Batangas and Pampanga.

On a rainy afternoon on Friday, the National Historical Institute (NHI) unveiled markers of "heritage houses" for the three ancient yet still stately mansions at the heart of Sariaya town at the foot of the mystical Mount Banahaw in Quezon.

Bestowed cultural recognitions were the residences of former Tayabas (now Quezon) Gov Nicolás Enríquez and Susana Gola, of Dr. Isidro Rodríguez and Gregoria Gala, and of Catalino and Luisa Rodríguez. The original owners are all dead.

Rich legacy

"We have very few ancestral houses nowadays because most of the houses have been torn down or have been left rotting through the years, but these are the houses that have been taken care of by the owners," said Emelita Abaoteon, NHI deputy director.

"The government would really like to focus on these homeowners so to give importance to their houses as part of our rich legacy."

A "heritage house" should have notable historical and cultural significance, according to the agency.

The Enríquez-Gala mansion, a "bahay na bato" (stone house) roofed with brick tiles, is adjacent to the centuries-old St. Francis of Assisi Church. It was designed in 1927 by Andres Luna de San Pedro, son of the famous artist-revolutionary Juan Luna, Alice Marquez, great granddaughter of the original owners, said.

"People sometimes say it is connected to the church. Well, if you look at it, it is only separated by a wall, and when we sleep here, sometimes we hear the bell of the church early in the morning. In the past, the relatives knew where President Manuel Quezon was in the house because there was a unique way of ringing the bell," she said.

Marquez said the house also had celebrities, dignitaries and political leaders as guests.

Linda Marquez, mother of Alice and relative of former Quezon Rep. Henry Marquez Jr. who acquired the mansion in 1989, said the upkeep and maintenance of the house cost a lot of money because of the periodic repair and renovation.

Quezon pride

"We're proud of this house. This is a pride of Quezon province and because it is now officially declared by the government a heritage house, it is now the pride of the whole country," she said.

THE ENRIQUEZ-GALA mansion in Sariaya, Quezon, a brick-roofed house which natives call "bahay na bato" adjacent to the centuries-old St. Francis of Assisi church, was designed in 1927 by Andres Luna de San Pedro, son of the famous artist and national hero Juan Luna.

The two-story Rodríguez-Gala house was designed by Dr. Juan Salgot in the early 1930s as a gift to his ailing wife Gregoria, who had wished for a "Climatic house" for their seven children. It has a distinct Art Deco style, from the stained glass windows to the fan-shaped front terrace.

A marquee displayed at the entrance read that the concrete edifice was built by a team of master carpenters and craftsmen, with the sturdy house features provided by Manila's leading furniture maker, Ivan Gonzales Parot.

"The house was completed and formally inaugurated during the birthday of Doña Gregoria on May 4, 1931. However, Doña Gregoria succumbed to her lingering illness, ten days before the celebration, but happily her family cherished their new home which was literally a 'token and gift of love,'" the historical account disclosed.

It said the mansion was used as headquarters by the Japanese occupation forces during World War II and later by the American forces.

'Bahay na bato'

It is now owned and maintained by Gladiola Argallon Labrador, granddaughter of the original owners.

The house of Catalino and Luisa Rodríguez was built in 1921 in the traditional "bahay na bato" motif with glass-paned windows. Its interiors are infused an aureate with numerous paintings and wooden carvings. It is now owned by the Mitos family.

Carpenters from Batangas and Pampanga used top-quality hardwood species in producing the magnificent mansion. The original furniture and fixtures were imported from Europe and United States.

A historical account claimed that the house served as venues of important occasions and celebrations, among which were in honor of President Quezon and an equally prominent native of Tayabas town, Don Claro M. Recto.

In the 1990s, during the reminiscing years of Victoria, one of the eight children of the Rodríguez couple, his family decided to restore the house to its former grandeur.

Victoria's fourth child Rebecca offered to purchase and restore the house originally owned by her grandparents.

Local government and tourism officials, members of Sariaya Sariaya, local heritage conservation advocates and members of the clan witnessed the unveiling and blessing rites for the three houses.

Filipino viewpoint

Abaoteon said the activities were part of the NHI program to identify ancestral houses to different parts of the country in line with the government's preservation of its rich cultural heritage.

> 'We have very few ancestral houses nowadays because most of the houses have been torn down...'

Installing historical markers will "showcase the need to focus to the national consciousness the history of our country from the Filipino viewpoint and to evoke pride to our national heritage and identity," the agency said. The markers set government property and any act to destroy or remove them without the written authority from the NHI board can be charged criminally.

With the official recognition of the old houses, Abaoteon said the NHI could now extend its expertise and technical assistance for their preservation.

THIS ancestral house with glass-paned windows was built in 1921.

Across the NATION

Bid to oust Panlilio filed at Comelec

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Allies of a defeated gubernatorial candidate close to President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday pushed through with the filing of a petition to oust Catholic priest Eddie Panlilio as governor of Pampanga.

Members of the Kapampangan Federation Party (Kaufed), led by Mayor Jaime Pamintuan Inc. (Kaufed), said they had gathered 214,873 signatures to have recall elections against Panlilio, who ran on the ruling Lakas-Kampi-Cmd ticket of the late Gov. Lilia Pineda in her failed gubernatorial bid, paid a filing fee of P50,000 in the form of a manager's check.

168 boxes

Several mayors and provincial board members helped Kaufed members deliver to the Commission on Elections (Comelec) at least 168 boxes with the signatures.

Provincial Ballotsan, Comelec legal division chief in Manila, said they verified some of the signatures but to be finished before May next year.

He said the process would be finished by then because the law prohibits recall elections a year before national elections. The next national elections are scheduled in May 2013.

He said the verification process could take two, three or more months depending on obstacles thrown in its way.

"Verification is not easy. The lists of qualified registered voters might be needed and both sides must have representatives," said Ballotsan.

Serafion said the signatories from the province's 20 towns and this capital city represent 25 percent of the province's 954,000 registered voters set by the National Statistics Office.

Across the Comelec office, the Kaufed crowd carried placards and streamers showing support for the recall campaign.

1st recall

Panlilio, the 26th governor of Pampanga, was the first public official here subjected to a recall.

Senior Supt. Keith Singian, Pampanga police director, said the crowd was about 8,000 because government carnival activities were also bringing the recall supporters to the capitol counting 7 a.m.

They attended an 8 a.m. Mass, officiated by Fr. Rodolfo de Guzman, and a rally before proceeding to the Comelec office.

Labor Mayor Dennis Pineda, son of Lilia Pineda, was not in the pro-recall rally.

Kaufedites stood ban of candidacies as ground to oust Panlilio.

In petition was endorsed on four cases—the conviction of Lubao mayor-elect Noel Mallari and his Aquino against their nominations for alleged corruption in quarry fee collection, Panlilio's refusal to endorse Ordinance No. 176 that would ease restrictions on quarry operations, and his decision to open governors' access to those funds, a petition was filed by lawyer Rodolfo Billy Bautista, and a case filed by Dr. Emilio Wenio against Panlilio's decision to change the assignments of board of directors hospitals.

For the three-term Pamintuan himself the recall campaign is over. Pamintuan, 51, one of Panlilio's former supporters, buttressed on Lilia Pineda, came out in public, vowing to seek double time to help run for governor. From the Diosdado Macapagal Center (Union with Alicia Pajo in Manila).

LEADERS of the recall movement against Catholic priest Eddie Panlilio show the folders containing signatures in support of their petition to oust the governor at the Commission on Elections office in the City of San Fernando in Pampanga.

Kin of missing join calls for Balao to surface

By Desiree Caluza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—EDITH DEPOSIO, mother of missing activist Jonas Burgos, said the recent court ruling supporting the petition for a writ of amparo of brothers Raymond and Reynaldo Manalo against the military provided a ray of hope to families of disappearance (missing persons).

Burgos was here on Tuesday and met with the family of James Balao, a founding member of the militant Cordillera Peoples Alliance, to help draw up the campaign to find him. Balao's family had suspected the military to be behind his disappearance on Sept. 17.

"The Supreme Court decision brought hope to all of us. It is a big thing for us. It will make the rare even stronger for missing (University of the Philippines students) Karen Empeño and Sherlyn Cadapan, whom the Manalo brothers grew up in a military camp). Their classmates were very credible," Burgos said in a statement, believed to be soldiers, in a shopping mall in Metro Manila on April 28 last year.

Jose Balao, James' father, said the family had started accusing military camps in Bad but brother.

"It is very difficult. Since he went missing, we stopped counting the days and stopped looking at calendars," Jose said.

Arthur Balao, 39, James' (Sudan) said he hoped to see his son alive.

"If James is alive, we will be happy to have him back. It is difficult to think that he is in the military's custody and he's suffering while being tortured ... We just want to bring him home," he said.

Burgos said the abduction of Balao could set a precedence in the Cordillera.

"Abduction is an act of cowardice. There is a culture of impunity encouraged by (President) Macapagal-Arroyo," she said.

She said she and the members of Cadapan and Empeño signed the recent impeachment complaint against Ms. Arroyo as representative of the disappearances.

Balao's family on Oct. 6 filed a petition for the issuance of a writ of amparo with a Baguio court to compel the military to produce him.

In the petition, the family asked the Baguio regional trial court to direct the military to disclose the whereabouts of Balao.

The family also asked the court to allow them access to representatives to inspect military or police facilities where Balao was believed detained.

In a statement, officials of the military's Northern Luzon Command denied that the military was behind the abduction and disappearance of Balao and other activists in Northern and Central Luzon.

Lt. Gen. Isagani Cachuela, Nolcom commander, urged the CPP and other groups in the dialogue in order "instead of waging a destabilize campaign" to help provide the group accused have no chance to defend themselves."

BALAO

Arrest at UP Baguio on Tuesday

Burgos said the experience of the Manalo brothers, who were abducted, tortured and rebelled or escaped from a military camp in Bataan, gave hope that many desaparecidos could still turn out alive.

"They are just to show [military] camps wanting to be rescued," said Burgos, whose son Jonas was abducted by armed

Boracay construction frenzy to resume; SC ruling on ownership of land welcomed

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—OFFICIALS OF Boracay Island have ordered the lifting of a moratorium on new construction projects in the already congested island resort.

The lifting of the construction ban came as some property owners on the island expressed support for the Supreme Court decision that declared the entire island as public domain.

In a resolution unanimously passed by the Malay municipal council last Oct. 6, the officials directed the lifting of the moratorium passed on Oct. 24, 2007 and (implemented) starting Jan. 2 this year.

Councilor Rowen Aguirre, chair of the council's committee on rules and ordinances, said the council decided to lift the moratorium after the Department of Tourism (DOT) formed the task of the Boracay Comprehensive Land Use Plan and after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) had also finalized an environmental master plan for the island.

Aguirre said the lifting of the moratorium would take effect after Malay Mayor Cicero Cawading issues an implement-

FILE photo taken in March this year shows Boracay Island becoming more and more crowded as development goes unchecked.

ing ordinance.

The six-month moratorium was supposed to end on July 2 but was extended by three months, he said.

In a statement, a property owner on the island said the SC decision could actually boost investor confidence because it would lead to a more orderly way of titling lands.

"Investors' confidence will definitely be boosted by this landmark (decision) since the legitimacy of landownership and possession will finally be resolved," said Jacinto Ramirez, a former director of the United Nations World Food Program, in a statement.

Ramirez, who occupies a fourteen property in Boracay, said stakeholders in the island resort see the SC ruling as "a very positive development."

Aguirre said applicants for building permits would be required to abide by conditions, including the expropriation of portions of their properties if required by the government for public works projects.

Else, the municipal government would not issue building and construction permits for owners' areas like wet lands and other no-build zones.

The DENR-under-sized Council

NEWSBRIEFS

■ LEGAZPI CITY

BFAR lifts ban on Rombion fish

THE BUREAU of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) has lifted the ban on rabbitfish (rabbit fish) from Rombion waters after tests showed no chemical residue in the waters.

Water samples were taken and tested by the National Pesticide Analytical Laboratory after the last dyno of explosives was removed from the waterways.

A total of 400 containers of explosives, a toxic chemical used on pesticide, have been recovered from the sunken vessel.

"No contamination ... was found," said Jose Bartilo, BFAR-Bicol regional director.

Team advisory released Monday, BFAR chief Malcolm Sarmiento Jr. declared that Sorsogon and the rest of Bicol are safe for human consumption.

Lyncean Aguilar
Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ BAGUIO CITY

Former mayor tagged gunman

A SECOND witness has identified a former Abra town mayor as the alleged gunman in the murder of Abra broadcaster Heron Hinolan.

State Prosecutor Hazel Valdez, of the Department of Justice's Task Force 211, said Marlon Ibarrola identified the Cebu Regional Trial Court Branch 14 presiding Esteban Lacson-Nazro Alfredo "Fred" Arcenio as the lone gunman in the 2005 broadcaster Heron "Bay" Hinolan.

Valdez said that Ibarrola pointed to Arcenio at the court room when asked to identify the person whose she saw shot Hinolan.

Ibarrola, 34, corroborated an earlier testimony of prosecution witness Mike Bello that he watched as the former mayor approach and shoot Hinolan while the broadcaster was attending mass at a chapel in Barangay 01, Bangued, Abra on Nov. 9, 2004.

Arcenio, a former soldier, denied involvement in the killing. He is now detained in Cebu.

Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas

Gov't offers docs higher fees

DOCTORS promising to assist with a shortage of health professionals will get additional fees for services rendered by the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth).

PhilHealth officials said subscribers will also extend to outpatients who were being treated for malaria and HIV/AIDS and also for diabetes and hypertension.

Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas

■ BAGUIO CITY

Motorcycle crimes increase

POLICE are checking on motorcycles following the increase in the number of crimes perpetrated by motorcycle-riding men.

Senior Supt. Cesar Dacumbras, Davao del Sur police chief, said the move was part of a national directive after the Philippine National Police recorded 1,835 crimes involving motorcycle-riding malefactors.

At least 119 persons were killed in the attacks since January to June.

Antonio J. Nuay
Inquirer Mindanao

■ CITY OF SAN FERNANDO

COA exec shot

A GOVERNMENT auditor of three towns in Nueva Ecija was shot and wounded at past 2 p.m. on Wednesday in San Antonio town.

Teresita Grande, an employee of The Commission on Audit (COA), is still confined in a hospital and was reported to have no serious care and.

Grande is the COA team leader in San Antonio, San Isidro and Cabiao towns, all in Nueva Ecija.

Danilo Dojas
Inquirer Central Luzon

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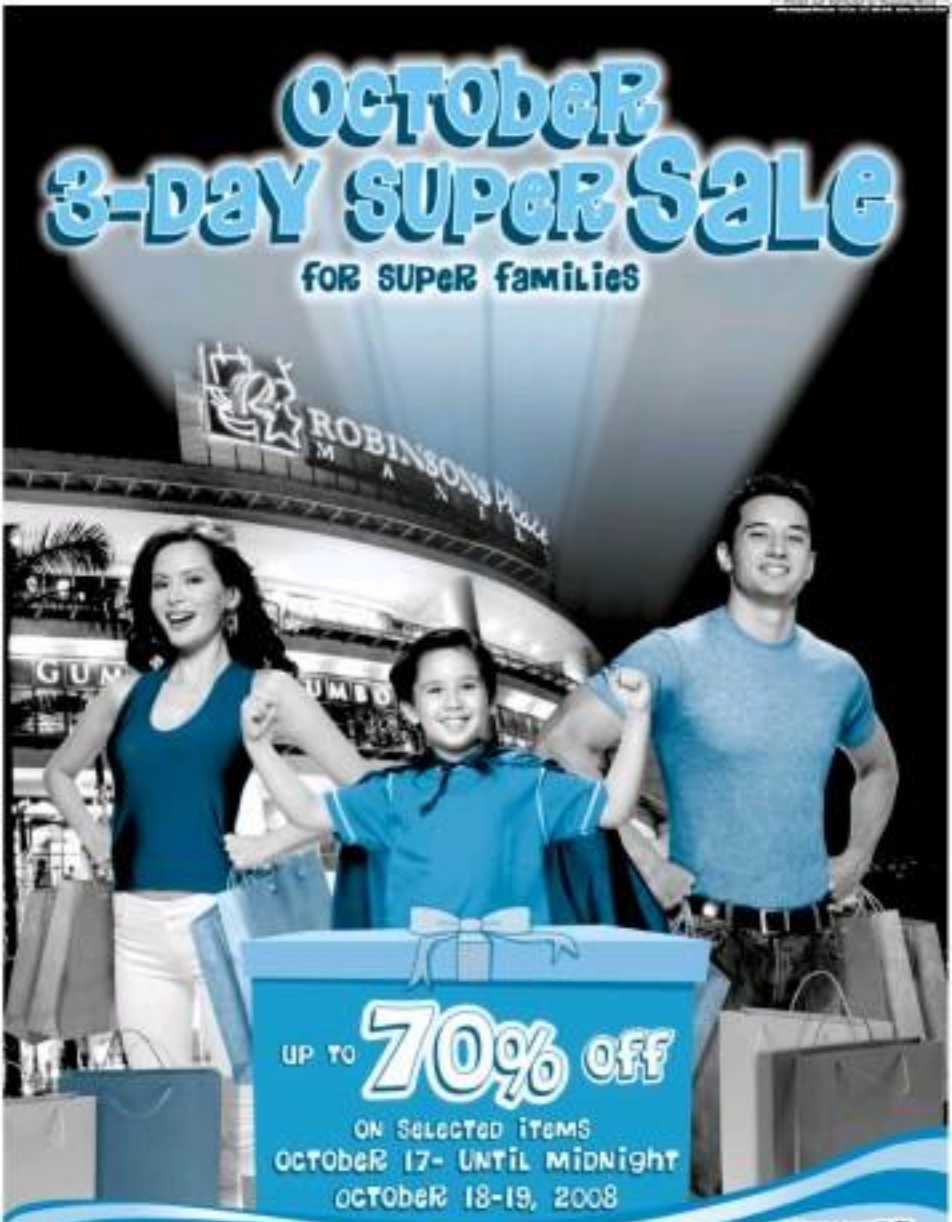

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Per DTI-NCR permit no. 4662 Series of 2008

Aplus METRO
Alice Bala G. Dipasupil

Couple face detention raps for holding grandson

Suspects allegedly sold baby for ₱30,000

By Tina G. Santos

CHARGES WERE FILED YESTERDAY IN A MANILA REGIONAL trial court against a couple who allegedly sold their 6-month-old grandson for P30,000 to a teacher from Tondo, Manila.

Alexander Pineda and his wife, Melvin, residents of Rizal Avenue in Sta. Cruz, Manila, were charged with serious illegal detention.

Manila City Prosecutor Jimmy Lopez ordered the filing of similar charges against the alleged buyer, Arwen Yolmen, 40.

Lopez did not recommend any bail for the provisional liberty of the three.

The charges were based on a complaint filed by the baby's mother, Jessalyn Calbay, 23, a resident of Cainang, Antipolo City.

An investigation showed that the Pinedas "borrowed" the baby from his mother on Aug. 2, 2007.

Calbay said she had agreed to the arrangement because Alexander is his uncle.

However, when she went to the couple's house to pick up her baby two days later, the Pinedas reportedly told her that her child had been adopted by a doctor from Cebu.

Calbay said investigators that she pleaded with her uncle to return the child to her, until he confessed that they had sold the baby to Yolmenfor who lived in Manila.

She added that she managed to contact Yolmenfor through his cell phone. He reportedly told her, however, that she would have to buy back her child for P30,000.

Desperate, Calbay said she went to the police to ask for help in getting her baby back.

The police, meanwhile, immediately set up an entrapment operation for Yolmenfor who was arrested on Sept. 15, 2007, at the Taisahan Hall in Divisoria.

During the operation, members of the Manila Police District's Women's and Children's Concerns Section recovered the baby from Yolmenfor.

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The NAT aims to determine the performance of students in Mathematics, English, Science, Filipino and Social Studies.

Cyril J. Bonalos
Inquirer Research

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QC policemen to Bicol to follow new lead in solon aide's slay

'Hypnotized' cook gives up ₱2M to thief

By Tina G. Santos

A CHINESE NATIONAL LOST over P200,000 in cash in a woman who might have hypnotized him into giving up his money.

Chen Xiao Hong, a cook at 9th Street Daily Restaurant on Kalaw Street, Ermita, and cashier Hsieh Hsiao, both of Malate, yesterday went to the Manila Police District General Assignment Section to report the incident.

Police are now looking for the suspect, described as "a Chinese looking" woman, age: five feet tall; 95-50 years old and 5'2"-5'3" tall.

The incident happened around 9:30 a.m. along Daguhoy Street in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

The victim said he was on his way to Aerospace Market when he met the suspect who spoke to him in Mandarin.

The suspect offered to sell him a gold necklace, saying she needed the money for fare back to China. The victim claimed he felt weak after the suspect tapped him on the shoulder. Later, he felt the need to turn over P200,000 in cash and his wallet containing P55,000 to the suspect.

After taking the money, the suspect immediately left.

In an earlier interview with the Inquirer, Insp. Ang Jee of the Investigation for the Restoration of Stolen and Stolen-owned Property Unit (Iriscom) said the public is to be more vigilant about the modus operandi used by criminal groups using hypnotic suggestions.

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THE POLICE TASK FORCE INvestigating the killing of Robert Delano, chief of staff of Compostela Valley Rep. Manuel "Pitoy Kachi" Carnicol, has found new evidence that could link a prominent personality from the Bicol region to the victim's slay.

Quezon City Police District Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit head, Supt. Rodolfo Mariano Mahusay, who is also on top of the task force, said one of the four witnesses in the Delano case has given them evidence that allowed them to identify the owner of a van allegedly used to commit the victim before he was killed.

"We traced the ownership of the van to someone from Bicol. The vehicle was allegedly used by hired gunmen to conduct a surveillance operation on Delano," the police official said.

Mahusay added that their investigation into the possible motive in Delano's death has shifted from mining issues in Compostela Valley to another angle.

Mahusay, however, refused to elaborate, saying, it could jeopardize their investigation.

The task force chief earlier said they were giving more weight to the theory that Delano was killed over mining issues over speculation that his death was related to the dismantling of a group of congressmen, among them Zamora, for the ouster of House Speaker Prospero Nograles.

Mahusay said that the witness told them about a red sport utility vehicle (SUV) that was following Delano's vehicle before he was shot dead.

He added that they had shelved their plans to go to Compostela Valley.

"We will instead go to the Bicol Region to follow the lead," Mahusay said.

Delano was shot dead last Wednesday after boarding his blue Toyota Fortuner in front of his house on K-3rd Street in Kamuning, Quezon City.

He died an hour later at a nearby hospital.

Police believe the three men who shot Delano were hired killers.

4 suspected robbers killed in shootout

By DJ Yap

FOUR SUSPECTED ROBBERS were killed in a bloody encounter with police at a checkpoint along C-3 Bridge in Navotas City late Tuesday night.

The fatalities were Rogelio Montero, 24; Mark Ramirez, 23; Mark Cortez, 23, and Norman Sentenos, 23, who was identified because of a New Bilibid Prisons discharge form found in his pocket.

The incident occurred along C-3 Bridge near Barangay North Bay Boulevard South at a little past 1:1 p.m., said case investigator, PO3 Randell Adora.

A patrol team led by PO2 Roberto Santillan, was conducting a check in the area when a Kawasaki tricycle passed by without stopping, Adora said.

The policemen tried to flag down the tricycle but the driver only sped up, prompting the lawmen to give chase, the investigator added.

The suspects then opened fire and hit Santillan in the right shoulder.

An exchange of gunfire then lasted a few minutes followed, Adora reported.

At the end of the shootout, the four men lay dead. Recovered from them were two .38-caliber revolvers with ammunitions and a "samurai," the investigator said.

Santillan was taken to the Tondo General Hospital for treatment.

Adora said police had been alerted that a group of armed men were planning to rob a gasoline station in the area.

A European sojourn for PNP generals and their wives

WERE TOP OFFICIALS OF THE Philippine National Police (PNP) and their wives sent to Europe recently, something happened along the way.

They were intercepted at the international airport in Moscow where an International Police (Interpol) conference was held recently.

The PNP generals and their wives could have used the event as an excuse to drop as well.

The generals who attended the conference were probably not too interested in learning about the new ways of criminals but in having a second honeymoon with their spouses.

The Philippine delegation was headed by the wife of the newly appointed PNP chief, Jesse Versoza, since the chief could not attend.

Moscow customs authorities held custody Dimeza Blanc de la Paz, former PNP comptroller, for having P7.3 million worth of euros in his possession.

That amount would have been spent by the police generals and their wives in other parts of Europe.

The amount given by the PNP for fare and travel expenses of the generals attending the conference, excluding their wives, was P2,311,896.

Clearly, that trip was a junket at the expense of taxpayers.

***

All big stores in Cagayan de Oro City will close on Oct. 21 to protest the alleged rampant extortion activities of the regional director of the Bureau of Internal Revenue in the area, Mustapha M. Gandarosa, and his subordinates. The protest is the first of its kind in the country.

The Cagayan de Oro City Council, fearing an economic breakdown in the city, passed a resolution declaring Gandarosa "persona non grata."

Gandarosa was probably ordered by "people upstairs" to "collect" for them.

Contrary to the President's orders, corruption is rampant in her administration.

***

It was unclear if Commissioner Napoleon Morales

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

to defend Bicol, whose Bataan degree was raided recently by the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Task Group (PASG).

If the PASG erred, that's the problem of its chief, Antonio Villar, not Morales.

If Port of Limay Collector Edward Baltazar, who was with the PASG raiders, was under preventive suspension then did not mean the raid was illegal. Balitazar was the PASG informant in the raid.

Expect a harsh travel between Morales and Villar in the coming days because of the oil raid.

Isn't sex who the President will side with.

METROBRIEFS

Fetus found at Manila Cathedral

A FETUS was found at the door of the Manila Cathedral in Intramuros, Manila, yesterday morning. The fetus, believed to be about 3 to 4 months old, had been placed in a pail of rice and was found by the cathedral's janitor and security guard. The two said they also found no more the fetus's body after when they noticed a foul smell coming from the pail. Msgr. Nestor Cortes, the rector, said it was the first time that a fetus was found within the church premises.

Tina G. Santos

Hog dealer nabbed with tainted meat

A HOG dealer and his two companions were arrested for allegedly transporting 230 kilos of suspected tainted meat in Pasay City Tuesday night, the city veterinarian said yesterday. Romerico Hilang, his nephew Bonjie and three of his helpers were arrested at a checkpoint set up by the City Veterinary Office on Quirino Boulevard. Dr. Rodolfo Encinares, city veterinarian, said they filed cases for violation of the Consumers Act of the Philippines and the Meat Inspection Code in the Pasay City Prosecutor's Office against the suspects who failed to present an inspection clearance from the National Meat Inspection Services for the tainted meat.

Marlon Ramos

Man robbed

TWO UNIDENTIFIED men stabbed a security checker in Makati City yesterday before stealing P 500,000 in cash from the victim's car. Makati police chief Senior Supt. Gilbert Cruz said Abdul Hamid Kasumsar, 43, owner of the P1.65-million-worth Dimagiri on Kalaw Avenue, was taken to the hospital for medical treatment. Hamid said he was stabbed on the chest and left his shop when the two men grabbed him and took his money.

Alison M. Cayne

Benefit gig for 'Ka' Randy

PINOY rock bands will perform in a benefit concert for the terminally ill widow of political prisoner-poet Randolfo "Ka Randy" Echanis from 8 p.m. to midnight tonight at Ms Father's Mindanao, 88 Scout Tuazon cor. Matalino Street, Quezon City. For tickets, please call 9264 IAM. Tickets are also available at UP Brother's Mountain bar,

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY
Intramuros, Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Name of Project : SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS FOR 200 VALENZUELA BUILDING (BOARDWALK) TO BE BUILT

Lots	Project Name	Project ID No.	ABC	Cost of Bid Docs	Bidding Period
1	Civil Works	08-057	Php 940,676.40	Php 500.00	14 c.d.
2	Electrical Works	08-058	1,887,150.53	1,000.00	14 c.d.
3	Piped Network	08-059	1,113,609.26	1,100.00	20 c.d.
4	Sanitary System	08-060	1,100,000.00	1,100.00	14 c.d.
5	Electrical System	08-061	4,340,760.36	4,350.00	14 c.d.
6	Telephone System	08-062	369,617.73	300.00	14 c.d.
7	Vinyl Tiles & Granite Flooring	08-063	1,700,676.86	1,700.00	14 c.d.

Location : 3/F Building, No. 1450 EDSA, Brgy. Sto. Cristobal, Valenzuela City
Brief description : Renovation of 3rd to 5th Floors of the 3/F Building
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : As indicated in the above Table

Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA), through its BAC and Awards Committee (BAC), invites eligible bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the above procurements for the 3/F Renovation/Renovation Project.

All participants bidders to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conferences(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions/provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities for Lots 1 - 7 is as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 15 - 21, 2008
2. Pre-bid Conference	October 20, 2008 (10:00AM)
3. Opening of Bids	November 3, 2008 (1:30PM)
4. Bid Evaluation	November 5 - 13, 2008
5. Post-qualification	November 14, 2008 (9:00 AM)
6. Notice of Award	November 17, 2008

Bid documents are not available to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount as specified for each of Lots (PhP) (Table).

The PRA reserves its unconditional entitlement to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid. The PRA reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) ARMINDA G. ALARAS
BAC Chairperson

(PA - October 16, 2008)

"This supersedes the advertisement published on October 13, 2008 at page B5

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that, on 08 August 2008, the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPO) promulgated its Decision in IPC No. 14-2006-00121, entitled **Global Quest Ventures, Inc. versus Ma. Sharmaine R. Medina**, adjudging Global Quest Ventures, Inc. as the true owner of the trademark Mr. Gulaman. The dispositive portion of the said Decision states:

WHEREFORE, premises considered, the instant Petition for Cancellation is, as it is hereby, **GRANTED**. Accordingly, Certificate of Registration No. 4-2005-004161 issued in the name of Ma. Sharmaine R. Medina is, as it is hereby ***CANCELLED***.

The public is, therefore, advised that any use of the trademark Mr. Gulaman for jelly powdered mix not emanating from **Global Quest Ventures Inc.** or without the latter's consent is illegal and a violation of the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines.

The public is further advised that any product of jelly powdered mix using the trademark Mr. Gulaman emanating from entities such as Bendum Trading and Rocky Crystal Corporation is unauthorized and illegal. **Global Quest Ventures Inc.** will not hesitate to use the full force of the law and file criminal charges and civil cases for damages against those who will be found selling products using the mark Mr. Gulaman without its consent.

BURKLEY & AQUINO LAW OFFICE
Counsel of Global Quest Ventures, Inc.
Suite 2802, Summit One Office Tower
530 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City

Obama top favorite in 1st RD poll

Canada Conservatives reelected

But may fall short of forming a majority in Parliament

BARACK OBAMA IS THE world's preferred choice for president of the United States by far, according to the results of a first-ever global presidential poll conducted by Reader's Digest magazine.

A reverseed version in the magazine will be out in newsstands in November across Asia. The poll was timed to coincide with the US election as well as the completion of a worldwide redesign of the magazine that includes updated cover looks on all editions as well as re-designed global logo and the slogan "Life well shared."

The poll asked 17,000 people in 17 countries, over 13,000 of them in Asia, who they would like to see in the White House in January and to weigh in on the global issues that most concern them. [Visit www.rdasia.com for full results.]

By a landslide

On the question of which candidate they would vote for if they could, respondents voted overwhelmingly for Obama in every country polled, with the exception of the United States, where Republican John McCain was preferred over Democrat Obama by a narrow margin.

"It's Obama by a landslide," except in the country in which he's actually running for president," said John Fredricks, Reader's Digest director of polling. "What is most striking is the margin of his support."

The respondents were also asked to characterize how they see America.

Anti-American sentiment was highest among Indonesia, the Netherlands and Spain, although US neighbors Mexico and Canada expressed it as well.

OTTAWA—CANADIAN PRIME Minister Stephen Harper, the first major world leader to face voters since the global financial meltdown, led his Conservative Party to victory in Tuesday's election but was forcast to fall short of a majority in Parliament.

The election agency reported on its website that the Conservatives had seats or were leading in races for 143 of Parliament's 308 seats, an improvement over the 127 seats the party had in the previous Parliament.

But, based on results obtained directly from election officials, Canadian Broadcasting Corp. predicted the Conservative Party would not win the 155 seats needed in govern on its own, as Harper had sought to do when he called early elections last month. That would force the party to again rely on opposition support to pass budgets and legislation—as it has had to since a 2006 election victory.

"Canadians have voted to move our country forward and they have done so with confidence in the future," Harper said early Wednesday. "Our party is a bigger, our support base is broader and more and more Canadians are finding a home in the Conservative Party of Canada."

The Liberal Party, long Canada's top party, suffered a severe drubbing, dropping about two dozen seats from 95 in the previous Parliament, according to the election agency. Blue Quebecois led for about 50 seats, the New Democrats just under 40 and independent candidates 2.

PRIME Minister Stephen Harper celebrates his party's reelection and his return to power. AP

Liberal Party leader Stephane Dion conceded to Harper early on.

"I have talked to Prime Minister Harper to offer him congratulations and my full cooperation in these difficult economic times," Dion said. He added that Canadians have asked him to be their official opposition leader, an indication that he was not ready to step down.

Election figures gave the Conservatives almost 37 percent of the total vote, the Liberals 27 percent, Blue Quebecois 18 percent, New Democrats 18 percent and others 4 percent.

The party winning the most seats generally forms the government, with its leader becoming prime minister. The opposition parties could unite and topple Harper if they won enough seats for a majority, but analysts said that was unlikely because the parties have no tradition of forming such coalitions.

"As Conservatives we have governed wisely and we accept this result and this responsibility with humility and without bombast," Harper said.

The opposition Liberals have typically been the party in power, forming the governments for most of Canada's 141 years. But the left-of-center vote was divided among four parties, giving an edge to the Conservatives. AP

Malaysia court orders ex-king to pay his debt

KUALA LUMPUR—A MALAYsian court ordered the country's former king on Wednesday to settle a $5-million debt to a bank in a landmark verdict that ended a contempt-of-court case shielding the country's royal rulers from legal prosecution.

The case brought by fraudfighting Chartered Bank against Yeoh Jude Yeoh Abdul Rahman was the first trial involving a Malaysian monarch since a 1993 constitutional amendment dissolved the immunity of state rulers from criminal and civil lawsuits.

A special panel of Malaysia's top five judges unanimously ruled that Yeoh Jude was liable for a $5 million credit provided by the bank in a 1999 business contract involving him and the US-based Connecticut Bank of Commerce.

Yeoh Jude, the royal head of Negri Sembilan state, was Malaysia's king at the time. AP

Nokor spy, sexual favors, jail sentence

SEOUL—A SOUTH KOREAN reverseed a woman from North Korea to five years in prison on Wednesday for spying for her communist homeland in a case that drew widespread attention due to its dramatic details involving sex and poisoned needles.

Pak Jeong Hwa was arrested in February on charges of passing classified information to the North, including the locations of key military installations, fans of North Korean defectors and personal information on South Korean military officers.

Prosecutors have alleged Pak used "sex as a tool" for her mission, dating a South Korean Army officer and making him work for her. Investigators have also said she plotted to assassinate South Korean intelligence agents with poison needles, but did not carry out the plan.

On Wednesday, the Seoul Eastern Court, south of Seoul, accepted a prosecutors' demand that she be sentenced to five years in prison, a court official said on condition of anonymity. He could not give more details.

Pak is the second North Korean spy arrested in South Korea in a decade.

The movie-like details in the charges against her have drawn keen media attention, with some newspapers calling her Korea's version of "Mata Hari," the notorious dancer-turned World War I spy. AP

WorldBriefs

Ties to new heights

BEIJING—Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari was to meet the leader of China in Beijing on Wednesday, as he reaches out to a close ally for increased investment to aid his country's ailing economy. A possible deal between the two countries would mark a step slightly anticipated. Such an agreement would serve as a counterpoint to a recent deal between India and the United States that cleared the way for American businesses to sell nuclear fuel and technology to India for use in its civilian programs. Zardari's four-day trip to China, his first official international visit since taking office last month, demonstrates Pakistan's current need to raising the "time-tested relationship to new heights," Pakistan's Foreign Affairs Ministry said in a statement. AP

Dalai Lama in hospital

NEW DELHI—The Dalai spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, in his stay in hospital for several more days to undergo checks following kidney surgery last week to remove gallstones, a doctor said on Wednesday. "The Dalai Lama will be released not before Saturday as no problem to stay here rather than check into a hotel and then report to us for periodic checks," said the doctor from the Sir Ganga Ram hospital, who declined to be identified. The 73-year old another's surgery on Friday and was transferred to the New Delhi hospital with abdominal pain. "He is having a good time and is quite cheerful," the doctor added. AFP

Viet journalist sentenced

HANOI—A court in communist Vietnam on Wednesday sentenced a journalist to two years in prison for his coverage of a major state corruption scandal and also jailed his police source for one year. "The People's Court of Ho Chi Minh City found Nguyen Viet Chinh guilty of abusing democratic freedoms to infringe upon the interests of the state," said presiding Judge Tran Van Vy. "He is sentenced to two years in prison." The second reporter, Nguyen Viet Hai, 30, of the Tien Phong daily, who had admitted to some unintentional mistakes in his reporting, was sentenced to a two-year non-custodial reeducation sentence and allowed to walk free. AFP

Iraq cholera cases near 500

BAGHDAD—Iraq's Health Ministry says the number of confirmed cholera cases has risen to 478 nationwide since the beginning of an outbreak in August. A ministry spokesperson, Dr. Qusai Jaafar, also says the number of cholera-related deaths stands at eight, including six children. Wednesday's statement says the southern province of Basra has the highest number of cases, while the capital Baghdad comes next with 71 cases. Basra is located about 85 kilometers south of Baghdad. Cholera is a gastrointestinal disease that can be spread by a tank or drops drinking water. AP

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The WORLD

Edna Lorraine B. Osorio

Fighting erupts between Thai, Cambodia troops

PREAH VIHEAR, CAMBODIA–Fighting erupted on Wednesday on the Thai-Cambodian border, military officials from both sides said, as a row over a disputed patch of land near the ancient Preah Vihear complex boiled over.

Brig. Gen. Buat Thean said the two sides had exchanged gunfire, after reports that 300 Thai soldiers were massing on their side of the border.

"Cambodian and Thai troops are opening fire at each other now," he told AFP from the scene, accusing Thailand of firing the first shot. "Thai troops entered our territory ... It is heavy gunfire."

A senior Thai military official who did not wish to be named confirmed clear fighting had broken out near the border, but insisted that it was isolated.

"It's small-scale fighting and the Thai authorities are trying to contain the incident," he said in Bangkok.

The fighting broke out in a small patch of disputed land about 2 kilometers from the 11th century Hindu temple, a UN World Heritage site which is an Cambodian territory.

Cambodia and Thailand have been quarreling over land near the temple since July, and tensions soared this week after about 80 Thai troops entered a disputed area, enraging Cambodia.

Thai television on Wednesday showed military trucks loaded with tanks heading toward the border and troops setting up mortars, while the Thai air force spokesperson said shop fighter jets were on standby.

Group Capt. Montol Sucharitkul also said reconnaissance planes were also being prepared in case they were needed in evacuate Thai nationals from Cambodia, but added that he expected the standoff to be settled through talks, rather than an armed conflict.

"I do hope the use of force is the last resort," he said, before the experts of gunfire.

Col. Sansern Kaewkamnerd, the Thai Army spokesperson, earlier confirmed that there had been a reinforcement of troops by both Thailand and Cambodia, but declined to say how many Thai soldiers were being resulted.

In Thmar Bok, Ger. Neang Phat, a secretary of state at the defense ministry, refused to reveal the number of Cambodian troops stationed near the border, but said they were ready to protect their territory.

"We have enough troops to protect our territorial integrity," he said.

Relations between the neighbors flared again this week after failed talks on Monday aimed at ending a months-long standoff over land near Preah Vihear. AFP

THAI soldiers set up artillery guns on Wednesday on the disputed area in the Thai-Cambodian border. —AFP

He wasn't too fat for execution

LOUISVILLE, Ohio —The first inmate to die by lethal injection in Ohio in more than a year argued to the end that his obesity would make it difficult for prison staff to find suitable veins in his arms to deliver the deadly chemicals.

Dusing preparations for his execution on Tuesday, Richard Cooey showed the case of his attorneys as prison staff tried to insert a dimer in his left arm.

"He was worried that we were on the brink of another botched execution," said Greg Meyers, an attorney with the Ohio Public Defender's Office.

There were no difficulties, said Larry Greene, a spokesperson for the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility where Cooey was executed for killing two University of Akron students in 1988. He was one of two people executed in the United States on Tuesday.

Cooey, who stood 5-foot-7 and weighed 267 pounds, said in his execution legal filings that his obesity made death by lethal injection intolerable. AP

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Rays clobber Red Sox anew /A22

SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Molmisa Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

- Manny flaunts power against sparring mate/A23

Fuel up now
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Black, Lim lead cage awardees

THE BEST OF THE BEST IN THE 71ST UAAP and 84th NCAA seasons will be honored in the 2008 Collegian Basketball Awards presented by Smart on Oct. 22 at the Coral Ballroom A of the Manila Pavilion.

Organized by the UAAP and NCAA Press Corps and sanctioned by the Philippine Sportswriters Association, the award will honor this year's top performance led by Coaches of the Year Siot Tanquingcen and Franco Atienza, Lim of Jose Rizal is a night of festivities set at 7 p.m.

Black, the Blue Eagles coach who had won FOUR titles including a grand slam, crowned the Blue Eagles as their first UAAP crown in six years and clinched his first title as a collegiate coach by sweeping the La Salle Green Archers in two games.

Lim, for his part, registered the Red Lions' 2-1 title conquest of the Four-Peat Heavy Bombers for their third straight championship.

The awards night supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, the Philippine Olympic Committee, Mizuno Gears, Burger King, Asics, Hapee Toothpaste, Mogadon Sleeping aid and Nike will also serve as a homecoming for the 2008 Philippine Collegiate Champions delegation.

The POC will gather this year's top country teams in one tournament for the right to be called the best collegiate basketball team in the country.

The UAAP and NCAA media group, composed of beat reporters from the country's leading broadcasts and periodicals, has been honoring the two leagues' top players and coaches for the last three years.

Among the group's past awardees were Antonio J. Lee Jr., Adamson's Ken Bono, UST's Jerry Cruz, La Salle's Franz Pumaren, Santo Tomas' Pido Jarencio and Letran's Louie Alas.

Tigers claim first victory

Coke nips P'foods after 2 OTs

By Marong R. Custodio

NIC BELARMINO SCORED 14 OF HIS 26 points in the two extra periods last night and led Coca-Cola to a 100-102 nipping of Purefoods for the Tigers' first win in the BIC Philippine Cup.

"When you work hard, you get the results or of being lucky," Coca-Cola coach Bonj Envi told reporters after the marathon game at the Araneta Coliseum, citing the grueling game-tying four-point play that the usually reliable Peter Jano Simon credited to Purefoods.

Simon, a mere 7% percent from the three-point range, had what could have been the first throw that would have forced a third overtime with eight seconds of a second overtime in the Tigers, after two clear misses, finally pulled one out of the rim and sank it from midcourt at 1:2.

"I honestly think that we got lucky in the end," Bonj added. "We needed this win. This is a good breakthrough."

The Tigers actually came roaring back from as many as 14 points down late in the third period behind Belarmino to forge the first extra, 90-90, all.

Two Ato Taulava free throws with 20.1 second remaining allowed Coca-Cola to seal the second overtime at 93-91.

Purefoods, which lost for the second straight time after opening up with a win against Red Bull, had golden chances of wrapping up the game at the end of regulation and in the first extra period.

But that Tender Juicy Giants, who have shown their tendency to sometimes depend on only two players in the crunch, stalled all four times although at crucial time.

Coca-Cola also trailed early at the start of the second overtime but slowly worked its way back behind Belarmino, who scored the Tigers' first four points.

The 6-6 ex-UST former Alaska and San Miguel enforcer, who had a fling with Wilkon last year, actually gave the Tigers their first lead since the second quarter by pumping back a Taulava-to-me with 1:28 left for 100-99.

Right from the start, we kept talking that things wouldn't be easy," Envi said. "I just never imagined that it would be this difficult."

Taulava who finished with 20 points and 14 rebounds for Coca-Cola, which also got a double-double from Mark Clemente Telan, who capped his 14-point output with a crucial reverse with 50.6 seconds left that made it 102-99. Telan had a 14-point, 10-rebound.

Lanete Yap scattered 20 points to lead Purefoods, which also got 24 points and 15 boards from Enrico Villanueva. Simon still finished with 22 and his by-the-numbers chipped in with 11, but had two crucial misses at the end of regulation and the first overtime.

Meanwhile, the league's then-over official game in Singapore will be held on Nov. 30 pitting San Miguel against Talk 'N Text in a venue to be finalized within the week.

The Scores:

First Game

COCA-COLA 123—Taulava 20, Belarmino 26, Arao 16, Telan 16, Mbenga(a) 11, Salvador 11, Bautista 5, Evans 2, Quinto(a) 2, Encarnacion(a).

PUREFOODS 116—Yap 27, D. Villanueva 24, Simon 22, Pascual(a) 12, Allado 7, Ta 8, T. Reyes 7, Lastimosa 5, Ilagan 3.

Quarters: 24-20, 28-40, 22-42, 20-10, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1

PUREFOODS gunner Lanete Yap (left) converges a duo against the outstretched defense of Nic Belarmino. JOHN DEVILLERES

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Tigers scramble past Saints

EL HOLE of St. Clare (right) can be released away from UST's Carmelo Afuang. JOHN DEVILLERES

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Cojuangco vows to bat for comprehensive sports law

By Jane Navarro

WHILE SHOOTING CHIEF ART MACAPAGAL is pushing for a six-point agenda in his Philippine Olympic Committee campaign, incumbent president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. hopes to consolidate all the laws pertaining to sports if he gets a fresh mandate.

The POC head vowed to piece together a comprehensive law for sports from measuring an athletes' worth to allocating a fixed amount budget from the national coffers.

"The No. 1 target is to consolidate all laws in sports within a year," said Cojuangco after yesterday's executive board meeting at the POC office inside the Philsports in Pasig City.

"Nothing can be done efficiently if these laws cannot be consolidated. It is part of a plan that could benefit sports in the long run," added Cojuangco.

The former Tarlac lawmaker mentioned the need to install a predetermined budget for sports regardless of the change of personalities in the Senate and House of Representatives, the bicameral body that approves the yearly budget of the Philippine Sports Commission.

Cojuangco also hinted for the enactment and full implementation of the five-percent share of the PIC from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation to effectively subsidize the national sports development fund.

The NSAF bankrolls the training, international exposures and allowances of athletes and coaches, among others. Right now, the PSC claims that it has been collecting only 2.5 percent from the Pagcor's gross monthly revenue.

"I want these things straightened out. I'm not asking for more money here a fixed specific amount so we could work on it and plan ahead of schedule," said Cojuangco.

He said he would also propose a fixed term for PSC officials so as not to disrupt the preparations of the athletes for major regional and international events.

During the same meeting, the election committee formed by the Olympic body for the May 30 polls set the deadline for the filing of candidacy on Oct. 29.

Election committee members Ricky Orino, Fr. Bernie Oca and Vitaliano Navarro will also begin rescheduling the proposed election rules to the national sports associations for comment and, later on, for implementation.

Cojuangco said the Comelec had requested for a list of NSA heads to determine the lineup of officials who could cast their votes in the coming elections.

Based on the POC constitution and by-laws, only the NSA president is qualified in one but he could designate his first vice president or secretary general to serve as proxy.

3-1 SERIES LEAD

Rays clobber Red Sox anew

BOSTON—EVAN LONGORIA HIT HIS second-record fifth home run of the playoffs, and Carlos Pena and Willy Aybar also homered off aging Jamie Moyer. Tim Wakefield can't remember an game like Tampa Bay Rays's 13-4 victory over the Boston Red Sox to put the defending World Series champions on the brink of elimination.

Carl Crawford tied an American League championship series record with five hits and stole Sunday's game pitched 7 1-3 innings of relief. Tampa Bay took a 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven playoff. Aybar had four hits and five RBIs.

After an off day, James Shields and Game 1 winner Daisuke Matsuzaka are scheduled to pitch Thursday at Fenway Park in a potential clincher for the surprising Rays.

Tampa Bay had never even approached a .500 record during its first decade in the expansion-ridden AL East. Now it's one win for the AL East title by two games. But the Rays were poised and powerful against a Red Sox team that has made the playoffs in five of the last six years, advancing to the ALCS four times and winning it all twice.

During the 42-year-old Wakefield, the oldest pitcher to start an ALCS game, the league's newest team homered three times in the first three innings against to take a 3-0 lead. The Rays scored another in the fifth and blew it open with five more in the sixth when seven straight batters reached base to make it 11-1.

Sox lined up for the rain after the Red Sox were down 1-0-2 in the sixth—the third inning in a row they were retired in order. TV showed movie-maker Stephen King reading a book in the stands. Scoreless.

On the field, it was never as sunny.

One night after the Rays hit four homers to beat Boston 9-1, they hit three more and totaled 11 hits against five Red Sox pitchers. Wakefield, who was making his first appearance in 16 days, lasted just 2 2/3 innings, giving up five runs, including Longoria's fifth playoff homer in as many games. The record set by Florida's Miguel Cabrera in 2003.

Red Sox reliever Justin Masterson allowed another run, Manny Delcarmen gave up five more while getting just one out, Mike Timlin gave up two more in the eighth. AP

RP'S Patty Orendain (right) pounces on the defense of Thai players during the 7th Asian Youth Girls Volleyball. [illegible]

RP spikers battle Chinese

By Cedelf P. Tupas

THE PHILIPPINES FELL INTO A virtual death trap yesterday when it drew title favorite China in the knockout quarterfinals of the 7th Asian Youth Girls Volleyball Championship.

The draw was the consequence of the RP rosters' listless performance against Thailand, which routed it 25-21, 25-9, 25-14 even yesterday at the Philsports Arena in Pasig City.

The loss doubled ten in their pool with an 0-3 card that also included straight-set losses to South Korea and Australia.

The Chinese girls, for their part, rallied to pull their punches against defending champion Japan for an exciting 25-21, 25-22, 23-25, 16-20, 16-14 victory in their last classification match that also served as a virtual preview of the finals.

Yang Jie, one of the tallest players of the tournament at 6-foot-3, scored 22 points as the capitalized on the absence of Japan's top blocker, Mint Hirokawa, who is under the weather.

LABLE TODAY | Philippine Arena

1 p.m.—Korea vs Indonesia
3 p.m.—China vs Philippines
Ice vs — Thailand vs Chinese Taipei
7 p.m.—Japan vs Australia

The Chinese survived their way back from a 6-9 deficit in the final set to prevail in one hour and 43 minutes and clinch the top spot in their pool with a 3-0 card. Japan finished second with a 2-1 record.

Whatever the result of the 3 p.m. showdown today, though, RP coach Francis Castaño believes they have accomplished their mission by getting this far into the tournament. Its girls' 19-years-old and below.

"Our target before the start of the tournament has been the quarterfinals," said Castaño.

Korea smashed Australia, 25-19, 25-9, 22-25, 25-8, to top Pool A.

Ababa wrests 2-stroke lead

ZHONGSHU, ADAMS, PICKED UP TWO birdies coming home to fire a three-under-par 69 and build a two-stroke lead over Tomoo Asano halfway through the Mitsui Crowbird Invitation Open golf championship at the Cangshi's north course yesterday.

Seeking a second straight championship in the annual event hosted by Cangshi, Alan also shot two birdies against a bogey as the fourside for a 35-34 card.

Counting his stellar 74, Ababa jumped from joint third to the sole lead with a 141 total, two shots ahead of Asano, who took the top spot in the KTM box after a 67 while leader Anthony Fernando fumbled with a 76 and tumbled down to fourth at 148.

Asano also sizzled at the back with two birdies in the last five holes as he turned in a 70 for 140.

SPORTSWATCH

Jao, Bancio superbikes showdown up Sunday

THE RACE FOR THE HONDA TITLES at stake comes to a climax as the country's finest riders face the final round at Sunday in the championship round of the 2008 Shell Advance Superbikes Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

It will be a fight to the finish between defending champion Marco Bancio of Honda CB-150 R#2 Racing and 10-time former champion Jobel Jao of Shell Advance-Suzuki Fiesta Batchmates so they are just three points apart in the race for the Rider of the Year award.

Breeder of the Year race

CONSISTENCY WILL BE THE NAME OF the game today at the Pasay Square Garden when members of the Rizal Gamefowl Breeders Association battle to settle who will be crowned as the 2008 RGBA Stag Breeder of the Year and 2008 RGBA Stag Fighter of the Year.

Today's 4-Stag Derby lines up more than 500 roosters with the first fight set at 1 p.m.

Leading the pack with 15 points is FGRZ Stanley SSK of Ipe Sumulong & Boy Torres who shared the championship in the 1st legged tagged with a 4-2 win-loss spot in the 2nd leg. All secured with 9 points is Bogart Sumalinog of Tony Mabaca & Ramon Talavera.

PCSO Am Boxing Series

SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE AMATEUR Boxing Association of the Philippines national pool will see action in the October edition of the PCSO Amateur Boxing Championships. The fights will be held on Saturday at the Joe Cantada Boxing Arena in Bagumbayan, Taguig City, starting at 9 a.m.

Organized by the Joe Cantada Sports, the event is supported by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Tanduay Rhum, Toyota Balintawak and Mizuno.

PDI prexy bags HSBC pro-am berth

SANDY PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ, PRESident of the Pen arena Daer' inquirer, has secured the chance to play in the HSBC Champions pro-am tournament in Shanghai, China, next month.

Romualdez placed second overall in the HSBC Regional Golf Day last Tuesday at the Kau Sai Chau course in New Territories, Hong Kong for bag one of the nine slots at stake for the HSBC pro-am competition on Nov. 3.

The pro-am is the prelude to the the 2008 HSBC Champions tourney to be played at Sheshan International Golf Club in Shanghai on Nov. 6-9 with a field headed by world superstars Phil Mickelson, Vijay Singh, Padraig Harrington and Sergio Garcia.

Also in the field are world No. 6 Henrik Stenson, No. 10 Geoff Ogilvy, 2008 Masters champion Trevor Immelman, and world No. 11 Adam Scott.

Romualdez competed in Hong Kong as one of the two Philippine representatives which she earned as the ladies division champion of the 2008 HSBC Premier International Golf Tournament recently at Ilea, Elena.

As part of her prize, Romualdez will be given a four-day, three-night accommodation and a hospitality pass for the HSBC Champions event.

PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ

SHOT: Wilshire [front] steps ahead of Marlon Bendelinger [middle] and Oliver Ramos to step on course for the Shell Pasia Karting Formula XL Expert event.

Karting: Turalba, Monzones shine

JUSSA TURALBA AND IROY VILLADOS, displaying aggressive driving throughout, topped their respective divisions in the penultimate round of the 2008 Shell Rotax Karting Super Series held recently at the Carmona Circuit Philippines.

The 14-year-old Turalba of Ready2Race zoomed past tough challengers Jairo Alvarez, Boardman/BOR Junior champion, and Juri Benitez of Jet Racing in order both the Formula 125 Open Senior and ROK Senior crowns.

Turalba posted the fastest quotient of 44.281 seconds before wrapping up the 20-lap race in 13 minutes and 52.962 seconds.

Alvarez finished just 1.434 seconds behind Turalba.

Rookie Jac Monzones of EP1 Racing wowed the crowd with his spectacular come-from-nowhere Cherokee Cadet's entree winning streak in the Cadet 60 division.

Monzones romped Cadet's lid for a perfect season.

AUTO Racing's Villalon, on the other hand, clocked 56 minutes and 8.259 seconds to turn back former team champ Marlon Bendelinger by 0.025 seconds and Oliver Aquino of Alexandria Racing by 1.858 seconds to take the Formula XL Expert division.

RP targets top 10 in Eisenhower Cup

SOUTH AUSTRALIA—THE PHILippines will put premium on putting as it aims for a Top 10 finish in the Eisenhower Cup of the World Amateur Golf Team Championship which begins today at the Adelaide and Grange Golf Clubs in Adelaide here.

PGO Merlo Aurico, Rufino Bayron and Jerson Balanlay expected to hold their own against the big hitters in the field, coach Rony Lopez said it will all boil down on the performance of its players on the short putting surfaces of the tournament.

"We have good players in Jerson, Rufino and Jerson who can all hit the ball long so it see no problem with the long holes," said Lopez.

The team sent by the National Golf Association of the Philippines spent most of the two-day practice on the greens of the courses which host players from 70 countries.

Alabang golf tees off

NO LESS THAN 300 PLAYERS made up of members of the Alabang Ladies Chapter and the 45-strong Country Club, sponsors and guests are taking part in the 18th Dipel Cup golf tournament on Oct. 16-17 at the plush Alabang Country Club course in Ayala Alabang village.

The big event will be vying for attractive merchandise prize pool up by the Alabang Ladies Chapter which is holding the annual event to raise funds primarily for the Alabang cuddlers as well as their various tournament commissions and activities.

Lolit Arguelles, tournament chair and president of the Alabang Ladies Chapter, said operations are coming in to execute the success of the event which will be a two-man aggregate play competition.

Giligan's XI stalls Army FC booters

By Codoliff Topas

ARMY FC LOOKED VULNERABLE FOR THE first time in the Filipinos Premiere League as Giligan's held the league-leaders to a 1-all draw at the PhilSports pitch in Pasig City Saturday.

Giligan's actually seemed headed for an upset until Melfine Telayo scored three minutes from time to salvage the draw for the Antipolo, who remained on top of the league with 10 points from four matches.

The Army boosters led the past five times and they were made to pay by Ruben Dionisio, who broke the ice in the 49th minute by tapping Rudy Del Rosario's through ball.

Giligan's enabled to respond by coming in record to four points on a win and a draw.

In the other game, Asenso got two goals from Ariel Rivera to come from behind and beat Dilimon, 4-2, for its first victory.

Dilimon went ahead through Ariel Lorenzo in the ninth minute before Fernando Asencion equalized three minutes later.

Navy standout scores 7 goals

By Codoliff Topas

MICHAEL FERNANDEZ SCORED A LEAGUE record seven goals to power Philippine Navy to an 11-0 shower of Virgina in the 3rd NCR-IM Tony Bauza Cup Filipino at the Ateneo field over the weekend.

The win gave Navy top spot with 19 points on a 6-win, 1-draw, 2-loss slate, one point ahead of erstwhile leader Philippine Air Force, which has played three games less than Navy.

In scratch matches by rough caddies, Keith Israel Bhadlum provided the winning goal to injury time for University of the Philippines in a dramatic 1-0 win over Loyola FC.

The Maroons moved up to fifth with their fourth win, while Loyola remained in third.

In other first division matches, La Salle held powerhouse the Tigers 0 to a 3-all draw, while Ateneo blanked Mapua Aldeca, 4-0.

Second division action saw Polytechnic University of the Philippines move up by stalling Rizal Technological University, 1-1.

Loyola beat Manila All-Japan, 1-0; Ateneo trounced Xavier Atomic FC, 3-2, and Lions HC slipped Bongga United, 2-1.

MANNY Pacquiao (right, top and bottom photos) spars with Rashad Holloway at the Wild Card Gym in Hollywood. Holloway said Pacquiao is "too fast and very strong." —MICKEY BOLADO

Manny flaunts power against sparring mate

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MANNY PACQUIAO GOUGED IN HIS FIRST four rounds of sparring Tuesday afternoon at the Wild Card Gym in Hollywood, slugging it out with a 5-foot-11 rapper welterweight who swore that he left the Filipino champ's speed and power.

The sparring started slow then became a pounding battle that left Rashad Holloway shocked and sweat, according to ptilbox.org.com.

Holloway, who has a 9-1-1 record with five stoppages, was quoted as saying: "He is too fast and very strong. I felt those body shots."

The 5-foot-6 WBC lightweight champion Pacquiao, who will take on Oscar De La Hoya at 147 pounds on Dec. 6, needed time before solving the long, pointed jabs thrown by Holloway, exposed the country's foremost boxing authority.

As soon as he got the hang of it, Pacquiao, widely recognized as the best fighter pound for pound, engaged his sparmate in a furious slugfest, launching head and body combinations before pulling out just as quickly.

"Some of those that got through appeared to be power shots and they did not seem to bother the Pacman. Although, they may not be as strong as those expected to be delivered by De la Hoya, it seems that Pacquiao has the capacity to take and absorb blows from a super welterweight," said the article.

The idea is to simulate the conditions one day in the MGM Grand in Las Vegas where Pacquiao will attempt to consolidate De La Hoya's four-inch edge in height, six inch advantage in reach and sizzling-edge skills that made him the richest and most famous boxer in the world.

Four more boxers are lined up to test Pacquiao's mettle, including Orlin Norris, whom De La Hoya defeated for the WBC welterweight title in 2006.

But despite Pacquiao's impressive showing, Golden Boy Promotions CEO Richard Schaefer has made a daring prediction in favor of his boxer. "A brutal knockout."

When asked by entertainment.com about his forecast, Schaefer said: "I actually think he will knock him out in a rather brutal fashion."

But trend busting author Gary Todd said Pacquiao will win by a late TKO.

"It will be [Pacquiao] has to fight in the same aggressive, nonstop punching way, moving at angles, connecting with blistering combinations all night long. Oscar will get tired. He stopped throwing punches in the [Floyd] Mayweather fight. Pacquiao has to be first and try to take his legs away. If he can, he will win by late TKO," wrote Todd at the Straight-rightpunch.com.

Still, Todd feels De La Hoya will be going in to the fight fully equipped, with the help of trainers Ignacio "Nacho" Beristain and former world champion Daniel Zaragoza, who is expected to fill in the Golden Boy in terms of fighting a southpaw.

Four RP teeners join marathon swim

MARK Joseph

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE PHILIPPINES will field bets in the marathon swimming event of the First Asian Beach Games to be held in Bali, Indonesia, from Oct. 29 to 26.

The Philippine Amateur Swimming Association (Paaa) yesterday announced that Nikki Dacera of Gen. Santos City, Rafer Dean of Iloilo, Marvie Borja of Laguna and Paula Abigail Vega of Cebu, all 16 years old, will compete in the 5- and 25-kilometer races in the open area.

They were picked from among the winners of the Olango Challenge swimming race across the Hilutungan Channel in Cebu on May 10.

"The diversity of qualifiers speaks of the growing scope of Paaa development programs nationwide," said Paaa president Mark Joseph. "Paaa now is active in all aquatic disciplines—swimming, diving, polo, synchronized swimming and marathon."

Joseph described the four as "very young and very aggressive."

"What may be our weakness today, the large number of young athletes in Paaa, will be our strength in the years to come," added Joseph.

Roach must resume work as Pacquiao trainer

BARE EYE

Ronah Trinidad

SOMETHING STRANGELY DOMB IS happening to Freddie Roach and he must be led back to the boxing ring corner where he effortlessly belongs.

If to a lifestyles guide in Manny Pacquiao's quest for a personal fortune, Roach has taken the wrong path.

He must go back to being, pure and simple, Pacquiao's trainer.

* * *

To start with, Roach tried to function as a manager—a role he claimed he absolutely—in pushing Pacquiao to fight Oscar De La Hoya, who holds a tremendous edge over the Filipino boxing superhero in practically all departments of the forthcoming duel.

That hope was forgivable, unlike what Roach has been doing in trying to take the role as head salesman of the Divine Brunch slated at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas on Dec. 6 [Dec. 7 in Manila].

* * *

As the trainer and navigator to Pacquiao's career to being irresistible, Roach cannot afford to lose focus.

He must also start reconsidering his original stand that he won't be caught in a rivalry slug-out with the great Mexican trainer Nacho Beristain.

Surely, for now, should also stop claiming Beristain is none of his concern.

Roach must remain honest to himself.

* * *

This is not the usually composed, composure trainer we've been seeing in Roach lately.

That duel he took in pulling out a toy gun that could set fire to entice make fun of De La Hoya, win a duditor left hook.

Roach, in fact, did not have to step that silly move by barking on a portrait of the Golden Boy over his own belly, which was meant to serve as main target for the Pacman in training.

* * *

It was a hysterical bit at trying to look smart and competent.

If Roach is indeed certain De La Hoya is rotten around the belly, why bring this out in the open?

OK. Roach had had the last chance of personally dissecting De La Hoya's athletic anatomy when he trained the Golden Boy against Floyd Mayweather Jr.

However, Roach was, at best, being diddah in throwing this perceived advantage.

* * *

That weak posture, if indeed it's there, is not for public consumption, but only for him and Pacquiao to fully explore and exploit.

In the first place, Roach had obviously erred in making De La Hoya perform feats beyond his available physical capacity during that fight against Mayweather.

Worse, Roach had visibly concentrated on style and tactics, considered among De La Hoya's relative gifts.

This is hard to swallow, but it's very possible Beristain is now saying that Roach failure to prepare De La Hoya to his physical capacity is threatening against Pacquiao.

Beristain is too sharp and seasoned to be told that, against Pacquiao, style and tactics should not be indeed ahead of superb physical conditioning.

* * *

It's like this: if De La Hoya, indeed, had been incapable of pulling the trigger, as Roach had loudly claimed, against Mayweather, it was not solely Oscar's fault.

It was Roach who failed to make Oscar pull the trigger.

In fact, Beristain has obviously discovered that De La Hoya, not four hits in years, could still be motivated to his full physical greatness given ample time and competent training.

* * *

Yes, De La Hoya and Beristain are quietly engaged in taking the career back to physical prominence.

For his part, Roach must be fully focused.

Better yet, he must start training Pacquiao to be less predictable, if not invisible, inside the ring.

Their biggest chance of scoring an upset come Dec. 6: hinges on their ability to make De La Hoya miss his target.

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BOX SET: CHRIS BROWN
Fri, Oct 17 at 1030pm
Sun, Oct 26 at 6pm
Thu, Oct 30 at 330pm
Tue, Nov 4 at 8pm
Fri, Nov 14 at 830pm
Sun, Nov 16 at 1230pm

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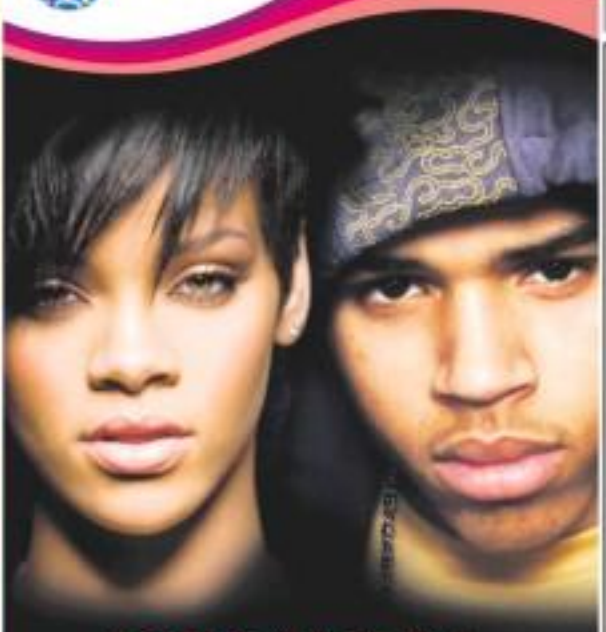

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BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Connie S. Mariano

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Remittances rose 10.4% to $1.3B

Growth slowdown reflects impact of financial turmoil

By Doris C. Dumlao

MONEY SENT HOME BY OVERSEAS FILIPINOS through banks grew 10.4 percent year-on-year in August, the slowest pace in four months, as the world stood on the brink of a major economic downturn.

Based on the latest Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas report, the growth in remittances fell sharply from the 24.6-percent expansion in July but was still in line with the BSP's conservative outlook of a 10-percent increase for the full year.

The cash inflow amounted to $1.3 billion in August, bringing total remittances for the eight-month period to nearly $11 billion, up 17.2 percent from a year ago. The money came largely from Filipinos based in the United States, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, Italy, United Arab Emirates, Canada, Japan, Singapore and Hong Kong.

While the ongoing global economic slowdown could put some dent on the growth of remittances, particularly from deployed contracts ending from the global financial shakeout that began in Wall Street, BSP

BSP FINANCES /B4

ING says investor sentiment on RP back to 'optimistic'

GLOBAL FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP ING yesterday released data from its quarterly ING Investor Sentiment Survey that showed a significant rise in sentiment among investors in the Philippines.

The Philippine Index rose 28 points, the biggest increase among Asian markets surveyed, to 138 for the third quarter of 2008 from 110 in the previous quarter. The index, however, registered a marginal year-on-year decline of 7 percent.

Overall in Asia, there has been a significant decline of 39 percent in investor sentiment in pan-Asia ex-Japan over the past 12 months, reinforcing the point that Asia is not as decoupled from the United States as global economy.

The pan-Asia ING Investor Sentiment Sentiment index fell to 86 for the third quarter from 112 for the same period last year as external market and economic developments continued to weigh on Asian investors. The index also registered the biggest consecutive quarter-to-quarter fall to 86 for the third quarter from 2009 a quarter ago as investors took stock of the global markets and economic developments.

The ING Investor Dashboard is the first quarterly survey in the Asia-Pacific region that provided a pan-Asia (ex-Japan) investor sentiment index. The survey is conducted quarterly across 13 markets in Asia Pacific, and not only provides market insights on investor attitudes and outlook but also allows each market to be benchmarked and tracked against the overall investor sentiment across Asia using the pan-Asia index.

The worsening global financial situation that originated in the US subprime crisis and slowdown in the US economy remained key external concerns for Asian investors moving into the fourth quarter, outweighing domestic near inflation. Investor sentiment in Asian markets (including Singapore, Hong Kong, China, Taiwan and Korea) with close trade links with the United States and Europe have registered the biggest falls in investor sentiment.

However, investors polled in the quarterly survey from the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand have registered an increase in sentiment. The

ING SAYS In

BSP posts net profit of ₱4.23B in 8 months

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas remained in profitability in the first eight months of this year as the sharp peso depreciation against the dollar shored up the bond currency value of its foreign exchange assets.

The BSP's latest unaudited financial statement showed that the local central bank yielded a net profit of ₱4.23 billion from January to August this year, a reversal of the ₱16.9-billion net loss it incurred in the same period last year.

The central bank's income line also improved from the ₱6.71-billion net loss incurred from January to July this year.

Official documents showed that the BSP gained ₱430 million from the depreciation of the peso against the dollar during the eight-month period, a turnaround from the ₱48.22 billion in losses last year when the peso rose sharply.

The BSP has also turned from a heavy buyer of foreign exchange in the last two years into a net seller to slow down the peso's depreciation this year. Since it was selling dollars earlier bought at a much lower exchange rate, it also booked

BSP POSTS In

Stocks close 1.55% lower

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 1.55 PERCENT lower yesterday as investors took profits after the others rebound during the previous day's trading, dealers said.

The composite index closed 35.29 points lower at 2,238.41 points, while the all-shares index fell 1.49 percent to 1,427.77 points.

The market only 29 gainers compared to 143 losers and 36 unchanged.

Turnover totaled 1.93 billion shares worth ₱2.4 billion.

"It's just ordinary profit taking" after the 7.31-percent rise on Tuesday, said Jerome Kong of ECPI Securities Inc.

The said the government did not appear to be a signal of renewed panic.

"There are no signs it's going down further. Other stocks are still selling so this is just a normal day where people are interested in buying and selling," Kong said.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) fell 1.54 percent to ₱2,580.

Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. was unchanged at ₱27.50, while Bank of the Philippine Islands rose 2.81 percent to ₱41.66.

San Miguel Corp. type its "A" shares fell 8 percent to ₱46, while its "B" shares slipped 7.8 percent to ₱48.05. AFP

2 more foreign firms plan $3.3-B nickel facilities

By Amy R. Remo

SMUN AS NICKEL INDUS MIE expected to remain low, two more foreign mining firms disclosed plans of investing a combined $3.3 billion to put up nickel processing plants in the Philippines.

At the sidelines of the 8th Asia Pacific Mining Conference and Exhibition, Norway-based Intex Resources ASA said it would spend as much as $2.9 billion to put up a high-pressure acid leach facility within the site of its Minahes Nickel mine.

Intex also has a $400-million ferronickel plant at Surigao City.

Intex's Pantao Mining Ltd. will also invest $400 million for a heap-leaching processing facility at its Acoje project in Zambales, according to its CEO and managing director, Esben Gregersen.

Intex president and CEO Richard T. Grimmond said the facility would be constructed in two stages. The first will process limonite ore and the second, the saprolite resource.

According to Grimmond, the capacity of its processing plant during the first stage would run up to an estimated 40,000 tons of nickel and 3,000 tons of cobalt a year. In stage 2, the facility is seen to produce another 40,000 tons of nickel and an additional 700 tons of cobalt.

The Minahes mine, a nickel laterite deposit, reboils may be one of the biggest in the world, covers 9,720 hectares straddling the border between Central and Occidental Mindoro. Most of the drilling work and evaluation were done initially in Ekhayan and Sherabey areas.

Technical evaluation placed the current limonite resource at more than 100 million dry metric tons with 0.9 percent nickel and 0.07 cobalt.

Meanwhile, Russia's Gregory said the company expected to finish the feasibility study for its heap-leaching plant within the month, after which it will move to the engineering design phase.

In partnership with European Nickel PLC, Russia's heap-leach facility is expected to produce 25,000 tons of nickel a year.

Gregory had said that putting up the two plants would be part of their move to provide value-added services.

Nickle fines for shipping nickel ore, we can now process it here through the facility," he said. "We have enough nickel for these two projects."

Nonis, through Zambales Diversified Metals Corp., developed and processes nickel from the Acoje mine, which is estimated to have reserves of 31 million tons. The Acoje mine site used to produce more than 2 million tons of chromium concentrate until the early 1990s.

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Canadian firm bullish on Masbate gold project

By Arny S. Barros

CANADIAN FIRM CGA MINING LTD. yesterday said it expects to take to as much as $140 million a year from processing operations in its Masbate (Aroroy) gold project.

On the sidelines of the 6th Asia Pacific Mining Conference and Exhibition, CGA president and CEO Michael J. Gerrish said the company expects to begin commercial operations of the processing plant as early as January next year.

"That will be the first phase, but we also want to expand the capacity of the plant later on," Gerrish said, showing confidence in the local mining industry despite the global financial meltdown.

CGA is confident the Philippine project can avoid the difficulties it is facing in its local partner Filminera Resources Corp. – is completely funded and on budget.

CGA owns 60 percent of Filminera.

Its project is, in fact, a "unique exception," according to Gerrish, because the project has remained on track in budget, as well as in production executive and construction and development of the processing plant.

"Filminera is not experiencing technical difficulties," he added.

According to Gerrish, the plant will be able to process as much as 4 million tons of ore to produce over 200,000 ounces of gold a year.

Expansion plans will allow the plant to process as much as 7.5 million tons of ore.

So far, Gerrish said the company has spent $200 million for the plant, but did not disclose the possible cost of expansion, the feasibility study of which will begin next year.

The plant will be operated by CGA's wholly owned subsidiary Philippine Gold Refining & Processing Corp., and will source the ore from the Masbate gold mine.

With an expected mine life of 10 years, the Masbate gold mines is held by Filminera under a Mineral Production Sharing Agreement, covering 6,106 hectares.

The project has considerable scale with indicated resources of 3.3 million ounces and inferred resources of 1.77 million ounces, including a probable mining reserve of 1.084 million ounces of gold.

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MEDIUM BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

Coffee sector needs boost, board says

By Abigail L. Ho

THE LOCAL COFFEE INDUSTRY NEEDS between P100 million and P150 million in new investments to meet local coffee demand, as Filipinos continue to increase their consumption and shrinking domestic production.

Philippine Coffee Board cochair Pacita Juan said existing coffee plantations would have to be rejuvenated and rehabilitated. New plantations would also have to be established, she added.

"This is why we're holding the Coffee Summit on Dec. 11, with the theme 'striving for self-sufficiency.' We want to gather all the farmers so that we can count how many farms they have. By next week, we'll have a more concrete idea of which plantations to rehabilitate and rejuvenate, and how much seeds we need to plant," she said in a phone interview yesterday.

Right now, she said total domestic consumption was placed at 65,000 metric tons (MT) a year. Domestic production, however, addresses less than half of that demand with only 30,000 MT.

"We were sent as low as 23,000 MT for many time. That was when coffee prices were going down, so the farmers were forced to shift to other crops. But now, it's time to go back to coffee. And we need a lot of effort to do that," she added.

Being able to meet local coffee demand domestically would result in huge savings for the country in terms of importation costs, she said.

The P100-million-P150-million investment needed to enable local supply to meet demand was merely a fraction of the additional P5.5-billion import bill that the country is forced to incur every year due to coffee importation, she said.

She added that it would make a lot of sense for the industry as local production to be able to meet consumption, as local coffee, after all, was as pure as you could get.

"It's definitely at par with the world's best. This is why a lot of coffee shops, especially the local brands, are now serving local coffee," she said.

168

168 FERRUM PACIFIC MINING CORPORATION

RP'S FIRST LARGE SCALE IRON ORE MINING SIGNED

The country's first large scale iron ore mining operation commences in Zamboanga del Sur, putting the Philippines back in the map as source of this material after close to four decades.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources recently granted a large scale mining permit to 168 Ferrum Pacific Mining Inc. which has started some P500 million in mining to full operations the Zamboanga mine sites which all together contain one of the biggest concentration of iron ore deposits in the country. The mines were formerly operated by the Samar Mining Corp. (Samina).

168 Ferrum Pacific Mining is controlled by Micro-Tech Capital Inc., which is owned by Dr. Michael Mikao Romero, who is also chief executive officer of the country's largest and most modern non-contaminated port, Harbour Centre Port Terminal Inc.

DENR Secretary Jose Atienza stated that the 168 Ferrum Pacific large-scale mining permit is in alignment with government initiatives to revitalize the country's mining industry. The permit for iron ore production covers 8,408 hectares in six barangays in Aroroy, Zamboanga del Sur.

Dr. Michael L. Romero, Mikro-Tech Capital Inc. chairman and 168 Ferrum Pacific Mining Inc. chairman, receives from the DENR Mines and Geosciences Bureau director Romeo Ramos the large scale mining permit for 168 Ferrum Pacific Mining. Looking on from right are Cuesta P. Hones, 168 Pacific director for international sales and Marivee Espejo, executive vice president.

Romero said that with large scale operations, 168 Ferrum Pacific is now well positioned to contribute significantly to strengthen mining initiatives and country's mining exports. 168 Ferrum Pacific has mining claims covering almost 14,000 hectares in three towns of Aroroy, Baug and Mabalay in Zamboanga del Sur and Zamboanga Sibugay which have been assessed to contain 68 percent to 69 percent iron ore grades.

Reactivation of Bayog Mining

The Bayog mines were first explored by the Germans in 1938, which prepared iron ore to Japan in the 60s. Samina's Bayog operations ranked as the second biggest iron ore mining operations, next only to the Philippine Iron Mines Inc.'s Larap operations. From years 1968 to 1978, the Philippines averaged a yearly production of 1.32 million metric tons.

Both recent developments, iron ore exploration was in a virtual halt. Operations ceased in the mid-70s due to high cost of production.

168 Ferrum Pacific acquired rights for small scale operations in the said mines in 2007. The mining company started drilling in the same year. To date, a number of large Chinese, Japanese and Singaporean steel manufacturers have expressed interest in the deposits.

Romero states that the company now intends to extract some 1 million metric tons per year in the next two years, and gave up operations producing up to 2 million metric tons per year in the next five to ten years.

Small -Scale Operations

The 168 Ferrum team undertakes a detailed mapping program, including magnetometric surveys and diamond drilling activities on the mine sites to provide a numerical resource for the scheduled first 500,000 tons ore mining. In the order of the Bayog mines, 168 Pacific are authorized to have a collective ore reserve of 1.81 million DMT and 31.12 million DMT as ore resource. Accessibility to prospect areas has been enhanced by ongoing road rehabilitation.

The exploration volume is explored by the quality of the reserves, based on metallurgical results of the MGB and the Philippines Mining and Geosciences Bureau.

Strategically located just only 20 kilometers away from the Pamintayan Port, which has a deep sea that has its own surveying facility and wharves built, the Bayog mine operations present unique access to port facilities supporting importation of iron ore.

The Pamintayan port is less than 3,000 nautical miles from key iron ore buyers China and Japan, providing ease of transport.

168 Ferrum Pacific Mining Corporation
Unit 1601, Prestige Tower Condominium F. Ortigas Jr. Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Philippines
Telephone: +(632) 637-9189 Telefax: +(632) 633-8817
www.ferrummining.com

Siargao awaits new airport

By Michelle V. Baros

SIARGAO ISLAND—THE IMPROVED Sayak Airport in this surfing capital is expected to begin operations next year and help increase tourist arrivals.

The expansion of the airport, one of the conciliatory deals by the Presidents' during one of her State of the Nation Addresses, will service direct flights from Manila.

Officials said these flights will likely entice more tourists here, noting that visitors currently have to endure a nearly three hour boat ride from Surigao City to get here.

Xiron Felipe, mayor of the municipality of General Luna in this island, said tourist activity here peak in September, when the annual international surfing competition is held.

With the operation of the expanded airport, Felipe said tourists should come the whole year.

He added that Philippine Airlines has already expressed interest in operating flights to and from the new Sayak airport when it opens next year.

The old Sayak airport stopped operating several years ago when the airport in Surigao City was completed.

It used to service only small planes and mostly locals.

The completion of the new Sayak airport, officials said, have been an added boost. US$ billionaire runaway, who made possible by a P68 million funding from the Office of the President, Felipe said.

Felipe said municipalities here would promote other tourist activities here to cater to visitors that are not into surfing.

He said snorkeling, scuba diving and island hopping were some of the activities in the pipeline.

According to tourism officer Romeo Gillos, a little over 100,000 tourists visit Siargao-del Norte every year.

Celebrating 5 Years

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PMRC Today

5 years ago on October 16, 2003, **Prudentialife Market Resources Corporation (PMRC)** was established as the marketing company of the Prudentialife Group. Since then, the commitment to serve and guide families in building a better future has begun. Its mission is to develop and provide excellent products and services that will ensure a better life for the Filipino family.

Today, PMRC has grown, facing tough challenges through difficult and crucial times. With its solid partnership as a Prudentialife affiliate, PMRC has offered various products and services such as memorialization, healthcare, financial services, non-life insurance, real estate, and travel and leisure. As a marketer of a broader range of financial products and services, PMRC has forged agreements with other established service provider companies.

PMRC's New Look

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In celebration of its 5th anniversary, **Prudentialife Market Resources Corporation (PMRC)** is launching a new brand image with a fresh-looking and redefined company logo; and a brand value proposition that embodies the character of PMRC.

Their people have adopted an exemplary corporate culture of **Professionalism** in the industry. They are **Market-driven** in their decision making and in everything that they do. Always **Responsive** to the ever changing and discriminating needs of their customers, they are **Committed** to serve the Filipino family by leading their way to a brighter future.

"PMRC is committed to take on the challenges of the market. With thousands of loyal and dedicated sales force, we are prepared to market new products and services that will help improve the lives of more families."

Bienvenido S. Policarpio
Pmrc President

A Solid Partnership

Prudentialife is a service provider of quality service brands and a diverse range of products. **Prudentialife Market Resources Corporation (PMRC)** is dubbed to market all quality brands of the Prudentialife Group and other service provider companies.

Jose Alberto T. Villa
Prudentialife Group President
and Bienvenido S. Policarpio
PMRC President

Greetings From Our Partners

PMRC Looks Ahead

PMRC's thrust is to diversify further through various channels of marketing from traditional direct marketing via store and storeless ways like telemarketing and e-commerce sites for online selling. The nationwide area offices of PMRC with its professional marketing officers and sales executives are always on hand to guide every family with the best products and services to live a well-planned life.

CSR : Caring For Creation

As part of its commitment to preserve the environment, PMRC will join Prudentialife in a tree planting activity in Calimpa, Watershed in Cavinti, Laguna. Some 500 native seedlings will be planted to conserve our lush green forests and nurture one of God's valuable creations. This PMRC endeavor is in line with Prudentialife's 100 year environmental advocacy, "Caring for Creation," a call for everyone to become responsible stewards of God's creations.

Anniversary Activities

October 13, Monday	Thanksgiving Mass Tele-marketers Fellowship
October 14, Tuesday	Sales Association Day
October 15, Wednesday	DSM's and RM's Conference
October 16, Thursday	DSM's and RM's Conference An Evening with the Stars
October 17, Friday	PMRC Kapamilya Day
October 18, Saturday	CSR - Caring For Creation Day Tree Planting at Calimpa

Prudentialife
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To know more about PMRC, log on to http/www.pmrc.com

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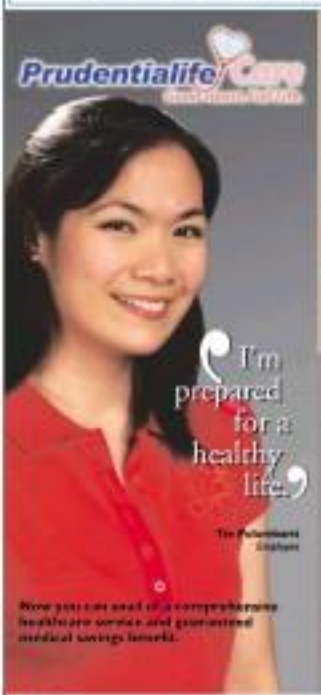

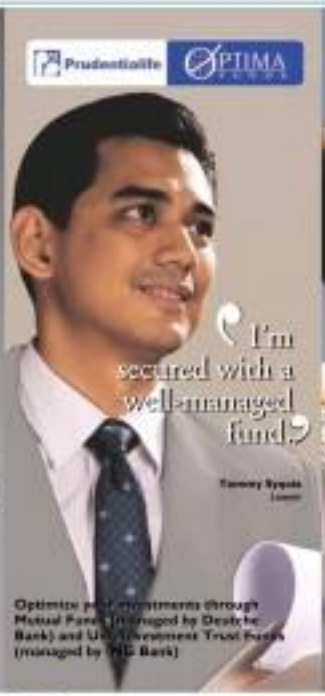

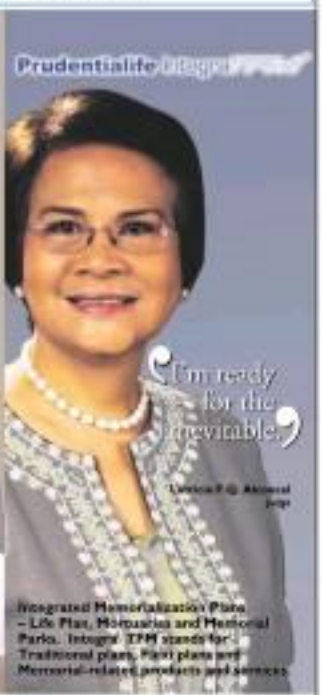

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Prudentialife
The Luster of Life

A. Soriano buys stake in school

By Elizabeth Sandino-Lacson

MANILA, PHILIPPINES — Andres Soriano III has agreed to buy a 28-percent stake in culinary arts academy Enderun Colleges for P6 million.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Ansoro said it has inked a subscription agreement for 16.2 million new shares in Enderun, a college which offers a full range of bachelor's degree and non-degree courses in hotel administration, culinary arts and business administration.

The acquisition will be funded by internally generated funds.

Ansoro said it bought the stake as it believes in the business potential of Enderun.

Enderun was founded in 2000 by a group of local and international business executives, including senior officers from Hyatt Corp. to the United States.

Enderun currently has 400 in20-time students, graduates and expects to increase its enrollment to 2,000 students by 2011.

Enderun is owned by Robert C. Tan, whose family owns the Discovery hotel chain.

"Enderun has quickly emerged as one of the most highly respected hospitality management colleges in Asia, offering an attractive local alternative not only to Filipino students considering to study abroad, but also to international students who would have never in the recent past considered pursuing their studies in the Philippines," said Andres Soriano III, chair of Ansoro in a statement.

He said Ansoro was excited about the prospect of re-establishing the Philippines as a source for education excellence in the world and proud that Enderun competes with top-ranked schools in the US and Europe.

Lopez firm seen getting new loan

COMPANIES CONTINUE to brave the debt market as local banks have remained liquid despite the financial turmoil that has crushed credit markets abroad.

BDO Capital & Investment Corp., the investment banking arm of Banco de Oro Unibank, said local banks are in fact prepared to arrange more debt deals, disregarding oft-voiced fears that clubs sold by local firms with huge debts have fallen on deaf ears.

"For the good borrowers, the (credit) lines are still there, a lot of corporations have requests for backing proposals (BPPs) and are actually pre-funding, already to have equivalent was chosen," BDO Capital president Edmundo Francisco said.

BDO Capital, the lead bank that arranged a P300-million loan for Lopez-controlled First Philippine Holdings Corp. last year, said it was also close to finalizing a refinancing deal for another Lopez company, First Generation Corp., worth roughly P300 million.

Out of the estimated P800 million new debt to be arranged, BDO is the lead bank for the local tranche worth P300 million.

The remaining P500-million is being marketed out to be arranged by foreign banks, which have neared lending spirits, encouraged by more capital flowing into the financial system, after the cutthroat efforts of Banco prior several banks to put up a $2-billion lifeline for banks.

First Gen is saddled with a P400-million debt, which it secured to acquire a chunk of the former Philippine National Oil Corp.-Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC), which will fall due in November.

Jittery about whether First Gen would repay the debt at a time of global financial volatility battered the company's stocks in past weeks, sending its stock price to a 52-week low of P13.75 last Oct. 10.

First Gen rebounded on Tuesday to P16.70 a share and closed at P13.75 yesterday.

"Due to clear up the jitters on the market, the foreign banks and local banks are talking. We anticipate that this deal will close soon. Majority of this refinancing deal is underwritten, so there should be no concern from the public on the company's ability to raise funds," Francisco said. Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

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1.0MM - 4.99MM	4.750	4.750	4.875	5.250
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PSALM assumes ₱7.4B in electric co-op debts

Suspension of DMCI nickel operations eyed

By Elizabeth Sánchez-Lizardo

DMCI HOLDINGS INC. SAID IT WAS CONSIDERING suspending its nickel operations in Zambales if nickel prices would continue to drop.

However, DMCI Mining Corp., a subsidiary of construction giant DMCI Holdings Inc., said a decision has yet to be made on the matter.

DMCI president Isidro Consunji said the DMCI Group had outlined basic P50-million limits for nickel ventures. The group, he said, would divert the capital to construction projects if the nickel operations would be suspended.

He said the DMCI board was set to announce on the proposed suspension of the nickel venture.

Nickel prices have dropped to around $11,000 to $13,000 a ton from $40,000 a ton last year.

DMCI Mining Corp., DMCI's vehicle for the nickel venture, shipped 330,000 wet metric tons of nickel ore in the first half of the year, with some 1.7 percent nickel content, worth $30 million.

Rural electrification loans account for bulk of the amount

By Abigail L. Ho

RESPONDING TO THE FLIGHT of rural power providers, Rizal Savers Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. has assumed about ₱7.4 billion owed by electric cooperatives to the National Electrification Administration and other government agencies.

According to the 12th status report on the implementation of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001, ₱946.88 million and ₱643.4 million were left in October 2007 to February 2008.

"Commensurate with the resulting savings from the removal of the universal charge payments of the co-op to banks, the Energy Regulatory Commission approved the final rate reduction/ generation rate amount of [same amount] in ₱948.28 which, as of December 2007, was equivalent to ₱0.08 centavos per kilowatthour," the report stated.

Of the ₱7.4 billion in payment made as of February, ₱7.3 billion went to the NEA, while ₱80.3 million went to local government units and other government agencies.

The bulk of the payments made to NEA covered rural electrification funds incurred by the electric cooperatives. Only about 15 percent, or ₱1.1 billion, was for sales from Sigfon projects.

₱946.88 also remitted ₱681 million in payments for dendrothermal facilities and ₱5.5 million for house wiring services, which represented 9.34 percent and 0.68 percent of total payments, respectively.

The ₱7.3 billion absorbed by ₱946.88 accounted for 40.55 percent of the electric cooperatives' total obligations to the NEA of ₱18 billion.

Electric cooperatives also owed LGUs and other government entities about ₱546.1 million, ₱90.6 million of which had been approved for assumption by ₱946.88.

Philamlife

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honorato C. Geneta

IN THE MIDST OF THE WORST GLOBAL financial crisis since the Great Depression, the largest life insurance company in the world, American International Group (AIG), finds itself in a terrible mess.

Alongside the real estate lenders who, when they can, were buying houses without any down payments and at low interest rates, and accumulating debts beyond their capacities to pay, AIG was selling credit and mortgage insurances, better known as debt cupidity swaps.

Let us say I lend you money to buy a house on easy installments. In the collateral on the loan, the house is mortgaged to me. But if you default on your loan, I do not want the house. I want my money back. So, when we sign the mortgage papers, I also buy from AIG a mortgage insurance policy. If you defaults on your mortgage, I collect cash from AIG, which takes over the house.

On the same vein, if I buy a 30-year Sagrada bond, I may consider insurance policy from AIG. If Sagrada cannot come up with the money when the bond matures, I collect cash from AIG.

When the bubble finally burst—as all bubbles do—AIG had to pay claims on those policies way beyond the premiums they had collected. Worse, the properties that AIG sealed up with sure search made less than at the beginning of the bonds.

Also, AIG had its gangsta with a problem insurance companies. When an insurance company's assets drop in value, there is no corresponding drop in liabilities. A life insurance company must keep all its assets, but its policyholders will continue to die, get disabled, or not live on a pension.

Insurance regulations around the world require that a drop in assets must be immediately replaced with new capital. Otherwise, the company may be placed under conservatorship, and finally liquidated.

In the next a few days ago, one of the world's largest life insurance companies, Metropolitan Life Insurance of New York, had to sell new shares to raise capital. Apparently, in the face of the financial crisis, its assets had dropped in value. The offer must have been the result of an order by the insurance commissioner.

In the end, the US government had to bail out AIG with an $85 billion loan (recently increased by another $37 billion). Thus the federal government is made investors in the deal. I understand the insurance industry is not subject to about 11 percent of the loan from those corporate loans. AIG has decided to liquidity some of its $1.0 trillion in assets and debts.

One of the events stands up for sale is Philippine American Life Insurance Co.

Philamlife will be an excellent buy, especially for a buyer with a passion for running a full service company.

Nor being a certified public accountant, I cannot give a professional assessment of its financials. But, I am willing to bet that, year after year, its books show a steady and consistent growth. Insurance Commissioner Eduardo T. Malinias has given public to attest to Philamlife's financial and actuarial soundness.

But beyond the financial statements, among Philamlife's most valuable assets are its staff of executives and rank and file employees. I am sure Philamlife has already assured everyone that no one will lose his job, unless he chooses to retire optionally.

Undoubtedly, the most valuable assets of all are Philamlife's corps of over 10,000 field agents, some of whom are my best friends. Well-trained, closely supervised, and highly motivated, they posted the highest number of newly-acquired, prospective policyholders, day in and day out. Every one is a college graduate. Based in written and oral English, and usually armed with a laptop. About 80 percent are women. And after they sell you a policy, they take good care of you.

Should you, dear reader, ever have a Philamlife policy, what will you do? I suggest you call up your agent. His job is to advise you what to do. Listen to him.

I bought a Philamlife policy many years ago from a friend who has already retired. A quarterly premium is due next month. I will send my check, no matter who the owner might be by then.

₱500M earmarked for meat plants

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULture has set aside ₱500 million for the construction of integrated meat plants, which will have all the necessary support facilities for the production of safe meat.

In a statement, Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said "an integrated meat facility can house in a single plant the entire meat production process—from slaughtering, carving, chilling and storing."

Yap said the establishment of integrated meat facilities in major production areas was the most viable solution to this dome, if not to totally stop, the continued increase in meat prices.

"The DA is facing a very difficult situation where hog prices at the farm level are only ₱65-₱80 per kilogram, while retail prices can be as high as ₱170-₱180 per kilogram," he noted.

The agriculture chief cited research data showing that an "integrated meat plant operations can balance cattle in market prices that can lead to competitive market advantage."

"We expect that once these facilities start to operate, prices of meat and meat products will become more stable so that farmers will be encouraged to enhance production," he said.

The said he had given the National Meat Inspection Service up in Dhan. the 20th, 200 to identify the areas where the facilities could be set up.

Replies also directed DARS officials in charge Jane C. Bautista to start putting up the facilities in December

Manila Water Launches Maiden Peso Bond Issue

Manila Water Company announced the offering that it has launched its 5-year fixed rate ₱5.0 Billion corporate bonds at a coupon of 8.26%. Offer period is from October 13 to October 17, 2008.

Manila Water President Antonino T. Aquino explains: "We believe that there is still strong domestic liquidity that we can tap for our funding requirements. Our solid financial track record and stable cashflows will attract local investors who are looking for fixed-rate investment outlets. Manila Water is a line of business that has demonstrated sustained growth and stability for the past eleven years."

He further noted that Manila Water enjoys the strong support of multilateral funding institutions, such as the World Bank, IFC (Common Investment Bank and ADB), which underwrote all current lenders of the Company. Together with existing common-rate facilities and internally generated cash, the bond proceeds will cover most of the company's capital investment requirements within the East Zone concession area, for the remaining months of 2008 and up to 2009.

The Manila Water bond issue has been assigned the highest credit rating of "PRS Aaa" by the Philippine Rating Services Corporation ("PhilRatings"). Based on the PhilRatings report, "a PRS Aaa rating is assigned to debt issues with the smallest degree of investment risk; whereby, the interest payments are by and large protected by a large or exceptional stable margin, and the principal is secured."

In arriving at the rating, PhilRatings cited the key strengths of the company, which include continued growth, solid earnings and cashflow generation, a performance-driven and sustainable regulatory framework, a track record of efficient operations, demonstrated management flexibility and resilience, and prudence and support of strong shareholders, and management's continuing focus on the alignment of business goals with the company's social and environmental objectives.

The Office of the Insurance Commission has also approved the bond issue as administrative and eligible issuance asset for insurance companies. The Joint Lead Managers and Underwriters for the bond issue are BPI Capital Corporation and SUN Bank. It is while BDO Capital and Investment Corporation is the Participating Underwriter.

Remittances rose 10.4% to $1.3B

From page B1

Deputy Governor Nestor Espenilla Jr. said remittances would continue to provide a strong buffer to the domestic economy.

He said revenue demand for Filipinos labor remained robust, citing data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration showing that new deployment increased 20.4 percent in the first eight months from a year ago. The number of Filipinos deployed reached 864,507 during the January to August period.

"Newly hired Filipinos were mostly deployed to the Middle East and Asia," Espenilla said, citing countries such as Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Ongoing talks with potential foreign employers continued with the increasingly deployment of better skilled and higher-paid Filipino workers—such as engineers, medical practitioners, production-level workers and hotel staff—continued to keep demand for Filipino manpower and the level of remittances growing.

Espenilla also pointed out that overseas Filipinos and their families were gaining greater access to enhanced banking services provided by local banks and their foreign counterparts.

"The increased access to formal channels by overseas Filipinos has been made possible by the establishment of more remittance services and tie-ups abroad by local banks," Espenilla added.

The BSP sees remittances from overseas Filipinos growing 15 percent this year, still ahead of its original target but slower than the actual expansion during the months prior to the global financial meltdown in September.

Despite expectations of a major global slowdown next year, Espenilla said overseas Filipinos would likely send less money to local beneficiaries but noted it was still possible to hit a double-digit growth.

"Even if one assume it goes down by 10 percent, that's still in excess of $1.3 billion (in remittances) a month," Espenilla said.

BSP nets ₱4.23B in first 8 months

From page B1

point rebanchor it intervenes to defend the peso.

The central bank recorded ₱84.55 billion in total revenues for the eight-month period, up by 12.8 percent from the same period last year.

The NIR at the banking system's lender of last resort, also earns interest income when it provides liquidity through overnight lending (repurchase agreement) and other credit facilities, reverse repurchase loans and emergency loans. *Barla C. Bautista*

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR
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TOPICS

Dito po sa amin. Using PR in creating local flavors to build a country brand

Philippines as a Tourism Destination

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Hello Philippines and Hello World! Reinventing the Philippines for investors

Branding the Philippines

BRANDING THE PHILIPPINES

Dito po sa amin, may Special Halo-Halo

FEES

ING says investor sentiment on RP back to 'optimistic'

From page B1

Philippine index has shown the biggest increase for the third quarter, up 25 percent from the previous quarter, and returned to the optimistic zone from neutral just three months before.

"Given that investors in the Philippines are generally conservative and have relatively low exposure to overseas investments, they are significantly fewer investors here who feel the impact of the global crisis on their investments," said Cesar Zalsuta, managing director at ING Bank Philippines.

Going forward, the survey results show that most investors in Asia expect their local economy and personal situation to deteriorate. However, Philippine investors were generally more optimistic.

- 59 percent of Philippine investors say the economy will improve in Q4 2008
- 41 percent say the stock market will rise in Q4 2008
- 66 percent say their economic situation will improve in Q4 2008

Zalsuta said the Philippines has strong remittances coming to flow into the country, the BPO industry is growing very strong, and most private and local banks have some of their peaks in the first half of 2008."

He said efforts to build a strong economy with a relatively robust financial system have paid off as the Philippines has been able to withstand much of the external shocks up to the third quarter of this year.

The ING investor findings, a quarterly survey on investor and trade investor sentiment and behavior of more affluent investors each quarter from 12 Asia Pacific markets including China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. Each market covered by the survey is assigned an investor sentiment score ranging from 0 (the least optimistic) to 200 (the most optimistic).

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LIFESTYLE Food
Editor Thelma Simon San Juan

Two more fine dining destinations to savor soon

Sought-after chefs will tease with their one-of-a-kind creations

HEROES ON THE LOOKOUT FOR FINE dining shakers this Chinatown will surely have a feast, with two top chefs opening their restaurants just weeks apart.

French Chef Cyrille Sannon and Philippine Navy captain Ariel Manuel will tease us with their one-of-a-kind creations.

The former promises to serve French food as it should be—in casual setting, where dishes are priced with checks that range from 600 to 900.

Sannon promises that at Restaurant CiQue, the freshest local produce will blend with the finest imported ingredients. Even given the dish's highest quality, he adds that he did his best to price them reasonably. The menu, a blend of old and new, a pure cel is from Sannon's days at Prince Albert, has old-time favorites that have been given interesting twists.

Remember for you fried foie with salsa verde? If you miss it, dang'ding na lang!

I look forward to his Oc Tongue with Sauternes Sauce and his Confit of Pork Belly with potatoes and apples. He even has an Apalmip with Truffle Sauce.

See you at Restaurant CiQue soon! Avenue 1 Unit Colette, 2 San Lorenzo Drive cor. A. Arnaiz Ave. For reservations, 0917-8008941.

No fusion food

For those who find traveling to Lolo Dad's in Quirino Ave., rather troublesome, Lolo Dad's Brasserie is opening at KTM to close soon.

The owner, chef Ariel Manuel, describes his new baby as "a notch above a regular coffee shop," where comfort food is prepared in classical style. No fusion in his cuisine; rapsa, sachet, a wild play of ingredients and combinations.

Open from brunch onwards, the menu will serve omelettes, sandwiches, pastas, salads and grilled items as entrees.

Manuel's wine list will be straightforward, a nice mix of new and old world. His coffee will be a blend of South Asian concocted by coffee connoisseur Ding Ayroso, his brother-in-law.

On my most recent visit to Lolo Dad's,

TWO MORE C1

CHEF Ariel Manuel

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

CHEF Cyrille Sannon

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Viva Italian pizzas

PIZZA HUT offers Viva Italian pizzas. Roma pizza is stocked with olive oil and has servings of pepperoni, ham, Italian sausage, bacon, mushrooms, green bell pepper, onions, black olives, fresh garlic, and topped with mozzarella and parmesan.

Meat lovers will enjoy Milano pizza with calami, Italian sausage, cupicola ham, oregano and parmesan cheese. If you choose to indulge in a pizza made of fresh tomatoes, mushroom, black olives, anchovies, garlic, and topped with parmesan cheese and parmesan, then Romano pizza is what you'd like to try. Sicily pizza has creamy white sauce with roasted garlic, anchovies, mushroom and shrimp. Call 811-1111 for delivery.

Flavors of Thailand

Dowee Pitza Galleria Manila's Seven Corners Restaurant presents the flavors of Thailand until Oct. 31. Dishes include coconut milk soup with chicken and Thai herbs; sour, salty and spicy seafood soup with mushrooms, spicy red duck curry, pounded achar with peanut dip, sautéed beef with hot basil and dish, green curry with chicken, and sautéed

Dining Out

A LA CARTE BUFFET

Seaweed City's unlimited restaurant to offer all you can eat for only P499 + - + served a la carte style. Participating restaurants are Shanghai Bistro, Senyo, Sammie's Plate, Seafood Island, Agave, Heaven 'N Eggs and Bistro. A special menu from each restaurant is available; order and consume as many as you can. Promo runs until Dec. 15, Sundays (11 a.m.-3 p.m. and 6-10 p.m.) and Mondays-Thursdays (6-10 p.m.). Call 6876778 to 94 or text 09175-8EWCITY.

noodles with seafood. For dessert, it's golden eggs cake. This sweet treat, steamed tapioca dumpling in coconut milk and sticky rice pudding. Call 631-7333.

New mob

Pancake House introduces the Salmon Fillet set meal with mustard pepper sauce and Arroz ala Cubana, a mess of ground meat, steamed rice topped with fried egg and served with extra banana slices. Pancake House has 80 branches. Some outlets are located at Walter Mart, North EDSA, SM Megamall and Capitol Hills, Quezon City. Call 890-0000.

Seafood delight

Blackbeard's Seafood Island offers "Alimbing Bihon sa Serbesa Negra." Blackbeard's Seafood Island is located at Eastwood City Walk, Fiesta Market, Market! Fort Bonifacio Global City and Shoppe de Isabel, Araneta Center. Delivery: Call 913-0791/ 980-7882/913-3884.

Hawaiian offerings

Pizza Hut (818-1111) has come up with such as Grilled Citrus Glaze Chicken Salad, Country-Style Hawaiian Pork Ribs, Grilled Citrus Tuna Steak, Beef and Chicken Kebab. Hawaiian fruit Cl offers 60% off cocktails, Try Blue Passion, Tropical Peach, Hawaiian Sunrise, Red Island, Tropical Dream, Blue Hawaiian, Havana Beach, Mai Tai, Pina Colada, Sex on the Beach, Margarita, Daiquiri, Tequila Sunrise and Cuba Libre.

Pizza Hut Cl is located at 5/F Shoppe at Sanremo, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. Call 803-1841.

'Ube-delicious!

Fan de Manila introduces Pancit Ube — a soft, chewy rolled bread filled with pure all-natural purple ube. This is a flavor extension of one of Fan de Manila's best sellers Pan de Coco — a soft, rich and chewy bread with plenty of caramelized coconut filling. Since Pan de Manila's breads contain no preservatives, artificial flavors or colors, the Pan de Ube makes a perfect breakfast treat or merienda fare. Its breads are always moist and tropic. Ad free. E-mail pandemanila_@yahoo.com or call 727-1060/840-

NAGYU SHABU-SHABU

To celebrate its 28th anniversary, Kimpura Japanese Restaurant in Greenhills offers Nagyu dishes at 15%-discount until Oct. 31.

Sarur Nagyu served as tappanyaki (Nagyu sirloin, tenderloin and boneless short ribs), flavored with wine and special topper sauces and served with miso soup, rice, sauted green salad and dessert.

Explore Nagyu in dishes like adagiri (beef slices, tofu, noodles and vegetables flavored with dashi, sherry, sugar and Japanese wine), shabu-shabu (beef slices, tofu, noodles, vegetables served with spicy or peanut sauce) and Nagyu tataki (seared rare Nagyu tenderloin slices with lemon and ponzu sauce).

Kimpura is located at Greenhills Shopping Center (beside Liat Mart), San Juan. Call 721-48 to 70/ 8669.

HEAVENLY TREATS

Heaven 'N Eggs offers Strawberry Almonds Whipped Pancakes. Other offerings include pancakes, waffles, steaks, lunch and dinner loaders, omelets and variations, salads, Asian Big Plates, pastas, sandwiches, French toast, soups, soups, appetizers and desserts. Heaven 'N Eggs branches are located at CNB Building in Tomas Morato, QC (tel. 376-3470), G/F Glorietta 4 (tel. 8-4EWEI), Fusion Circle in Eastwood City (tel. 91 23 172) and Trillonia (tel. 981-3488).

PEKING DUCK

The only fine dining Chinese restaurant that serves northern Chinese cuisine at Trinoma Park in Quezon City, Peking Garden continues to draw a good crowd of Chinese food lovers since its recent opening. Private specialties include spicy duck webs and cold chicken in rice wine sauce for appetizers, the intriguing steamed supreme soup & pork dumpling-like xiao dumpling placed in a Chinese spoon, mapo tofu in the notable white sheefy dipping the rice soup (before finally eating it), the dish with a legend of beggar's chicken (order in advance), and scrambled egg white with minced fish & dried scallops (tasts like crab meat when dish with Chinese special vinegar), among others.

Of course, the classic dish associated with northern style Chinese cuisine is the Peking duck. At Peking Garden, this is offered Mondays to Friday, lunch and dinner. Ore. 13.5. This special promo is priced at P1,188, available for dine-in orders only. Call 981-8882/ 981-8881.

CRISPY NOODLES

Super Bowl of China's Crispy Noodles with Assorted Seafood P99 offer is recended for dine-in, delivery and take-out orders until Nov. 30. Other dishes are Deep-Fried Cantelan with Spicy Salt, Tang Chow Fried Rice, Hunan Tofu, Crispy Shrimp with Sweet and Sour Sauce, Pork Fillet with Tausi Sauce, Sweet and Sour Pork, Honey Glazed Pork Ribs, Sliced Beef with Broccoli, Szechuan Shrimp, Golden Shanghai Chicken, Steamed Fish Fillet with Garlic, Oyster Mushroom, Prawn, Rice toppings and desserts. Call 7199888.

Chefs' Secrets Revealed!

Want to know a secret?

The best dishes usually come from closely guarded family recipes, and that is certainly true of Chef Hannah Herrera's very own Hennie Pot Chicken Galantina.

Grab a copy of Chefs' Secrets & Favorite Recipes, brought to you by F&B World Magazine and Unilever Foodsolutions, and unlock the secrets to Chef Hannah's most treasured recipes, and more!

With more than 50 Asian-inspired recipes from 25 talented young chefs, Chefs' Secrets & Favorite Recipes also offers helpful techniques, a glossary of cooking terms and ingredients, plus a list of suppliers of specialty products.

For only PHP195, it's definitely a great buy. Available at bookstores and magazine stands near you.
Get your copy now!

Two more fine dining...

From page C1

Manuel gave me a preview of Resource food: Poached foie in Jus.

The foie spread like butter on toast, with hints of fresh herbs and just pepperiness, seasoned with sea salt, dabbed with apple pear relish...the sweet sour sensation just perfect to carry you on to the next bite, robbing your palate of the fatgin. It was decadent, divine, just plain sexy!

Aside from dining in, you can also bring home a piece of Manuel's delectable dips, spreads and pates, all available for take-out and delivery! To see of my dearest friends, I couldn't be happier for you! Congratulations!

All-malt beer

Have you tried San Miguel's new Premium All-Malt Beer?

I usually do an Oktoberfest feature every year. This year, let's speak of the brew instead of the food. Alalia instead?

I am clueless when it comes to beer and was wondering why my friends were going crazy looking for beer at stores that weren't sold due San Mig's new beer. Not to mention that they were raving about it!

I tried it, too, and I can say it's the only beer I've tried that doesn't go unevenly as many does...clean, refreshing, crisp, with a hint of sweetness and very mild bitterness, which is what I like about it.

According to the info sheet, malt is a "rich source of diastase digesting antienzymes. It contains flavonoids, which can counter cell damage and help restore the risk of cancer and heart disease."

"It also contains B vitamins that boost metabolism, enhance the immune and nervous systems, keep the skin and muscles healthy and encourage cell growth and division."

For us long as it's taken in moderation, of course, I think that's what they forgot to add. Otherwise, hats off!

SAN MIGUEL'S new Premium All-Malt Beer

Well, I don't know if I'll ever be a beer drinker. One thing's for sure, beer lovers will have something new to cheer this October. For deliveries, call 632-8888 (2337).

Japanese rice

I love Japanese rice but find it too expensive. Can you recommend a rice that is not as expensive but whose soul sticky like Japanese?—Marissa

At home, I use Jasponica. Have you tried it? It is a hybrid of Japonica and Japanese rice, long-grained, white, aromatic and sticky. It is cheaper than real or pure Japonica rice and Japanese rice, keeps well and re-heats well, too. The downside is you are so much more than you should.

The company that produces Jasponica rice grows it in a 40-hectare farm in Sta. Cruz, Laguna, which has its own research and development center.

For perfect rice, use 1 cup Jasponica with 1 ½ cups water. The brown rice is quite good as well. Call 813-7828 local 330.

E-mail the author at rmc@inquirer.com.ph

Authentic French bistro opens in Manila

From page C4

...ons-inch cubes. Braised in Pinot Noir, preferably Burgundy.

Braised, sautéed, marinated with salt, pepper and bouquet garni among others, it is cooked for two to three hours with a preparation time of 20 minutes.

Beef Bourguignon is prepared with carrots, mushrooms and onions. It is an old recipe that succeeded into haute cuisine through many refinements. A consistent French recipe, it remains comfort food for many people in the western European republic.

Stellar

The smoked lamb with dried apricots and spices was a stellar main course. Served with couscous, it harkened to a Mediterranean table.

Honey, olive oil, ginger and saffron soaked into the meat and were all soaked in a covered pot with spices and dried fruit.

This is the land of quiet cuisine, a dish prepared using the freshest from the first season of the year. Rays described how he would imbue the baby vegetables that appeared after the cold winter.

Those would need only a little blanching to retain the fresh sweetness, dabbed in cuts of boneless lamb shoulder, the edible flower melded together with an hour's cooking time in the oven. The dish has a lighter sauce and is not as complex as other casseroles.

Inspired by his discovery of fresh fish, Rays prepared a traditional Provençal fish stew originating from the port city of Marseilles.

"I'll you and someone from Marseilles what are life's most important things, he or she will say the birth of Christ and bouillabaisse, in that order," he wrote in his second book, "La Regalade."

Vegetables, spices and orange peel are sautéed with fish heads, bones and tails. Boiling water is added together with vegetables and brought to a soft boil, then strained and seasoned to produce the stock.

The bouillabaisse is prepared separately using the meats of white fleshed fish, prawns and clams. An essential part of the food is the rouille, which should have the consistency of sauce and not mayonnaise.

The first spoonful was full of the best of the sea.

The collective silence that followed was broken by the reminder to consume the soup with the dry toast that accompanied the serving. The contrast of textures made it even more pleasurable.

Dessert sampler

At the end of the meal, Rays served a dessert sampler with lemon tart, tropicmousse and raspberry charlotte. It was a taste of Paris in Manila.

Rays will be traveling back and forth between the continents several times a year. He has found not only a warm welcome for his food but is much pleased by the local culinary talents.

Working with fellow Frenchman Pierre Cotrelle, he is training a predominantly young staff to do the food preparations.

Lunch service began Sept. 12 and dinner is available from 6:30-10:30 p.m., Tuesdays-Sunday.

La Regalade French Bistro is at 620 Arnaiz Ave., Makati. Call 7501334, 7502335 or 7502336.

The author is editor in chief of Lifestyle Asia.

RASPBERRY Charlotte

NAVARIN d' agneau Aux Epices Et Abricots Secs

CRAMED tart fruits

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For inquiries and reservations, please call 726-8526 or 725-5889 and look for Rona De Leon, Marilyn Espino or Michelle Manuzano. Enrollment is ongoing.

SCHEDULE OF OPENING:
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FEB. 2009 - MWF (10 - 4 PM & 5 - 11 PM) / TTHS (5 - 11PM)

A taste of South African hospitality

Part 2

BUT OUR FIRST TASTE OF SOUTH African hospitality was at Ambassador Petrus Antonius Abrahamus's residence just before we departed for his country. He not only served the wines exported here, but had a preview of the souvenirs we were going to buy there—Zulu hats, wire baskets, polka-dotted guitars, fund replicas, tall giraffes in brass and beads.

It was the ambassador who suggested going to Stellenbosch, whose 40 wineries from Cape Town, where he spent his student years. It's a picturesque region where many of the wineries are located. Again, mountains dominated the place, with changing colors and textures as the sun set.

We had other hosts: guide Nanine Joosten, the featured chef for an upcoming festival of South African Wine and Food at MH CBD's Restaurant 8301 from Nov. 10-14. This multitasking woman teaches culinary arts at several schools and manages home and family.

At the conference, delegates were given backgrounders on the political and economic situation of the country.

It's a good thing that we were there to witness the peaceful transition of government, the stepping down of President Thabo Mbeki and the proclamation of the new head of state, Kgalema Motlanthe!

That bodes well for the country's business climate and economy in the currency.

Concern

In all my talks with wine makers, there was always that concern for the poor and the jobless, and it was heartening to know of efforts to involve them in the wine industry.

This was reiterated by the Wines of South Africa (WOSA) a nonprofit organization representing wine exporters, its talks and their brochure. "To prepare for the 10th World Cup in 2010, for instance, Wosa has a campaign to train wine makers. There's a unique program that teaches wine descriptions based on animal sentiments...close, big, full-bodied wine is compared to an elephant.

Funding for the program comes from the sale of a special wine created for that purpose. Called Fynbi, the name means "fynbos" in the afrikaans language.

It was Su Reidy, CEO of Wosa, who nearly surrendered to the efforts of South Africa to get he point just selling wines by describing how the industry will be like in 2010. 10 years from now when it again hosts the 10th Cape Wine event.

By then, she predicted, the program of preserving biodiversity would have fiscal positive conserving vineyards, and with sustainable farming adopted by the producers having made South African wines not only top-premium quality but also exemplary in the eyes of the world.

She ended the talk with a tribute to the man who serves as the country's inspiration. "South Africa is the land where Nelson Mandela showed us anything is possible."

COUNTRY COOKING

Micky Jovez

Partake of the Family Sunday Brunch from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for only Php1,450 nett per person and go buffet hopping from one restaurant to another to savor the featured dishes at Basix, Benjarong, Tosca and Umu.

Children 6 to 12 years old availing of the brunch will only pay half the price while children 5 years and below are free of charge.
Kiddie entertainment await all children at the lobby.

For inquiries, please call 867-3333.

BASIX Benjarong tosca

Dusit Thani

INTERIOR. Done by Anna Sy, conveys a straightforward message that this place is primarily about food.

And with a Michelin-starred chef no less in Alain Raye

Chateau 1771's culinary treats:
You simply must try

Breakfasts, lunches and dinners at Chateau 1771 take on a special significance with culinary marvels created just to indulge the craving for exceptional flavors. The expert flavors of Chateau 1771's appetizing offerings come from the use of the freshest ingredients, the impeccable quality of spices and condiments, and the culinary team's mastery of time-honored cooking traditions. The results are edible works of art that texture the harmony of flavors.

As early as 7: 30 am up to 11 am, early birds and luxury lovers making a head start in the morning will feel ready for the day with breakfast at Chateau. From the range of good old traditional Filipino breakfasts, try the TAMPING BONELESS BANGUS from BATAAN - succulent smoked milkfish that's served with garlic rice, tsaa or sweetened egg with coffee, tea or native chocolate - for P319.00. For a taste of Parisian flavors, CINNAMON FRENCH TOAST with a choice of croissant, wheat bread or baguette - dipped in French toast batter and cooked to golden brown perfection – is highly recommended at P180.00. For an extra PINOIRE AGED CHEDDAR CHEESE or a CRISPY BACON can be added to your order at least. The figure conscious will find the BIRCHER MUESLI a treat for only P179.00. It's a popular Swiss breakfast granola, with ground nuts, honey, cream and milk mixed together then topped with mango, papaya, banana and golden raisins.

Treat the senses to the hearty aroma and flavor of traditional RACLETTE-a Swiss treat of melted velvety Raclette cheese for P590.00. Start the meal with the crunchy FOUR SEASONS SALAD. The luscious salad combines fresh mixed greens with aged cheddar cheese, pinenuts and tomatoes, spinkled with caramelized walnuts and bathed in golden maple vinaigrette. The big serving costs P160.00 and the small portion goes for P560.00.

Bite into al dente PASTA CHORIZO for P380.00. The Chateau 1771 original features perfectly cooked spaghetti tossed in flamenco-like reduced chorizo sauce, then smothered in real Parmesan cheese. For seafood lovers there's the BUTTERFLIED PRAWNS for P480.00. The succulent edible features stuffed prawns braised in cream, mushrooms, squash and parmesan cheese. It is topped generously with Camembert cheese then gratinated, and served with rich sautéed Rice.

And to top off a great meal, indulge in the delicious and scrumptious COFFEE PIE. Chateau 1771's unforgettable signature dish that's been a favorite for the past 20 years, for P180.00.

Chateau 1771 at its new location at the Greenbelt 5 now sports a cosmopolitan French chic ambience. The handsome paintings by the Filipino master Ondo Olmedo still artfully decorate its walls and corners. A wide view of the pleasant Greenbelt Park can be seen uninterrupted through its wide high arching picture windows. The service is always warm and courteous. Chateau 1771 continues to provide the perfect setting for an experience of culinary excellence that is renowned to many. Discover it for yourself - a memorable dining experience you would look forward to again and again.

Chateau 1771, located at the ground floor, Greenball 5, Ayala Center, Makati City, is open from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. (Sunday to Thursday) and 7:00 a.m to 11:00 p.m. (Friday and Saturday). For reservations, banquets & catering services, please call 729-9780 to 81 or (0917) 8636367.

Yearning for seafood? Get lost in the delicious flavor of Butterflied Prawns pan-stuffed prawns in cream, mushrooms and cheese served with sautéed rice

We mix perfectly al dente spaghetti of the Pasta Chorizo tossed in flamenco-like reduced chorizo sauce, then smothered in real Parmesan cheese.

Dip edible morsels into the hearty aroma and flavor of traditional RACLETTE a Swiss treat of cooked velvety Raclette cheese.

The Four Seasons Salad features a medley of mixed greens, cheddar cheese and pinenuts, sprinkled with caramelized walnuts and bathed in golden maple vinaigrette.

Try Chateau's take on CINNAMON FRENCH TOAST, a breakfast that's popular all over the world - croissant, wheat bread or baguette dipped in French toast batter and cooked to golden brown. Adding CRISPY BACON or AGED CHEDDAR CHEESE is a good choice.

For a diet rich in fresh fruits and nutritious grains, eats and more, Chateau's BIRCHER MUESLI is a simple delicious blend perfect for that on the healthy breakfast list.

Enjoy your early morning with the traditional TAMPING BONELESS BANGUS FROM BATAAN, a favorite Filipino creation of smoked fish.

Authentic French bistro opens in Manila

By Anna C. Sobrepeña
Contributor

THERE WERE STIRrings among food enthusiasts as word went around that a Michelin starred chef was setting up shop in Manila.

The shingle had barely been hung when urbanites began to sniff out La Brasserie at Ayala avenue, formerly Remy Bond, in Makati.

Walking into the 200-sq m restaurant, what is visually immediate is an open kitchen facing the entrance. There is a bar in the right, all other spaces are occupied by soft tables and chairs. The interiors, done by Anna Sy, conveys a straightforward message that this place is primarily about food.

The fabric-coated circular lights are more than decorative; they help absorb sound, reduce intentional or unintentional eavesdropping on conversations from nearby tables.

A panel behind the bar is the palette of Renee du Toulouse Lautrec's The Moulin Rouge Cabaret shine to sexual desire for spirits and cocktails.

Bistro fare

The interiors, visible through a generous window across an entire wall, is where Alain Raye works with a team core crews and flies to bring French beers here to this part of the world.

The man from the ancient royal city of Fontainebleau opened his first restaurant in Riberville, France, in 1970. That was when he received the first Michelin star at age 24.

He had known as early as 15 that he'd pursue a culinary career. He apprenticed at famous ate Arine in the scenic commune's forest border.

Three years later, Raye received his degree and a national mention. The Bellbrasses were in Paris, marked in several establishments and did a stint at St. Maxime on the French Riviera.

In 1992, he purchased the restaurant La Belle Epoque in Chevreuse, located west of Paris, 30km from Versailles. His inspired work restored him a second Michelin star. It was also here where he published his first cookbook, "Une Table Pour Deux."

By 1999, he had relocated with his family to Vancouver and opened La Brasserie, serving what he called "simple French bistro food at home."

Passion

This is where Rolee Quiche of Hyatt Regency have discovered him.

"He knew his plates and wines," the former hotelier shared. Quiche, who was the only Filipino there to have become general manager of a five-star hotel chain, said he recognized passion when it was served to him.

The two reconvened instantly and began talking about plans to open in the Philippines. That led to the new address in Makati, which aims to recreate the French bistro dining experience—simple fare in an unpretentious setting.

Normally the menu in such establishments is written by hand with chalk on a board. In like fashion, Raye has scrawled on a board over the kitchen counter some of the standard dishes.

There are also printed bills of fare that lists the menu de soir, menu après and vin. Quiche insisted a wine expert from abroad to prepare a focused selection to match the food.

Quiche also said they had installed an exhaust system that eliminates any cooking odors, despite the half-open division between the kitchen and the dining area.

Sensation

The first alfresco sensation comes with the onion soup. It was the aroma of the gruyere over the croutons floating in the deep brown broth.

Dipping a spoon into the simmering bowl of beef stock and breaking the surface of melted cheese released the fragrance of caramelized onions.

Seasoned over low heat to melted lumps, the complex flavors of the rubber came out with the extended cooking time. It went to once sweet and salty to the mouth, blending with the chewy cheese and the tender minced onions.

Owing to the resto's generous portions, it's recommended to order family style here. It also affords the opportunity to sample different foods like the classic bits of beef—essentially a pot roast of beef boiled for lots

AUTHENTIC CU

CHEF Alain Raye

LIFESTYLE Food

RATING INDEX

Poor

Good

Excellent

From Chinese and Japanese to Continental food

THIS WEEK, WE DECIDED to splurge a bit and go to three comparatively expensive dining places. The first is Chinese; second, Japanese; and third, Continental fusion. Nothing major disappointed us, except, perhaps, that they all cost us comparatively

THE QUIET DINER
RESTOS AT A GLANCE

Fair money

China Palace of Tagaytay Highlands, 2 F., SM Mall of Asia, J. W. Diokno Boulevard, with good view of the sea (tel. no. 3566291)

Dining areas—We've not been to China, but this must be typical of their elegant dining rooms. An attendant in blue leads diners through a short curving bridge leading to the main dining area. The interiors are of elegant mahogany, chairs are

Another FIRST!

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TUDOR BY MARK COLL

MOOD MACHINE BY FRANK ABRENA

BEEK BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

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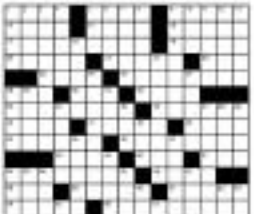
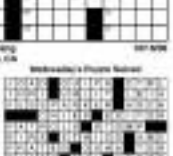


By Alan P. Olschansky
Huntington Beach, CA

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY You have active, decisive personality and, Thursday, will be in search of variety, activity and events. You're inventive but impulsive and without conscious sense of pattern. You enjoy beauty in your surroundings and in the theatre, music and architecture. Many of you have high psychological needs. This year, something will seem to be missing and you'll search for it and in doing so, evaluate your life and relationships.

Birthdate of: Jon Meyer, physician/psychic; Dave Wills, artist; Kelly Martin, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Something unusual is unexpected. Be open to change and you can make some money financially today.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You can be broad-minded and tolerant today, but don't work off your own responsibilities. Others may blame. Be considerate.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You feel you're in a creative mood and wondering what to wear. Be careful not to overdress, but you don't have to dress down.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A friend might surprise you with an invitation you'll want to accept. The invitation might also be a request for goods or change your ideas about the future.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Some aspect of your private life will be highlighted today. Be careful not to overdo. Balance happiness with responsibilities. You cannot avoid them.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Some aspect of your private life will be highlighted today. Be careful not to overdo. Balance happiness with responsibilities. You cannot avoid them.

The indications are highlighting. You're going to have to plan this carefully.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) An unexpected gift or gender may come your way today. Someone might be interested in you. Possibly, you're interested in them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A change from your daily routine is in store for you today. Be open to suggestions offered, or together you might experience a disaster.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Interesting ideas and plans for your future, perhaps due to romantic gratification, or career opportunities, fascinate you today. Be careful, however, it's a little selfish, and not to your benefit.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Now is a time to make a commitment. Be firm even if you're not sure. Tuesday, unfavorable, could certainly be an exciting day. Favorite activities may make you more than ordinary successful.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Some aspect of your privacy is highlighted today. Be careful not to overdo. Balance happiness with responsibilities. You cannot avoid them.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) You're creative, energetic and eager for new experiences. Be careful not to overdo. Balance happiness with responsibilities. You cannot avoid them.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level ★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Strawberry ice cream pie

PDI LIFESTYLE KITCHEN-TESTED RECIPE

By Norma Chikiamco
Contributor

STRAWBERRIES IS AN ALL-TIME favorite ice cream flavor. You can even make it at home. It's best to use fresh strawberries but what if these are not available (or are too expensive)?

Here's a recipe for strawberry ice cream pie that uses canned strawberry topping and pie filling. You can buy canned topping and pie filling in the baking sections of large supermarkets.

Strawberry ice cream pie

1 ready-made chocolate or Graham cracker pie crust (store-bought)

1 can (300 g) strawberry topping and pie filling

1 c (250 ml) all-purpose cream, well-chilled

½ c condensed milk

1 tbsp lemon juice

Whipped cream for decorating (optional)

Fresh strawberries for decorating (optional)

About 2-3 hours before starting

or the day before, freeze the pie crust so it becomes firm.

Drain strawberry topping to measure ½ cup syrup and discard the syrup. Press strawberries lightly with a spoon to break them up into smaller pieces.

Whip all-purpose cream in an electric mixer until medium peaks form. Add condensed milk and continue beating until mixture is very fluffy and has increased in volume. Fold in drained strawberries and lemon juice.

Pour into frozen pie crust, spreading evenly. Freeze for 6 to 8 hours or until firm. If desired, decorate with whipped cream and fresh strawberries before serving.

Tips

- Ready-made pie crusts are available in the baking sections of large supermarkets. You can also use your favorite cookie-crumb crust.
- Be sure to chill the all-purpose cream well as it can relate to a good volume.
- If using fresh strawberries for decorating, wash the fruits very well, especially the bottom or stem ends where dirt may be left-over soil. (I usually just slice off the stem ends.)

A night of Spain's finest wines

BANCING will showcase fine Spanish wines.

THE AMBIENCE OF A TYPical Spanish bar in the environs of the Plaza Mayor in Madrid is what La Camara (Camara Oficial Española de Comercio Industria y Navegación en Filipinas, Inc.) will reproduce when it stages "La Camara Wine Experience" on Oct. 18, 6:30 p.m., at Barcino Restaurant at The Fort.

To make the atmosphere even more authentic, tapas specially prepared by Barcino will be served.

Guests will also get to taste the wide range and varieties of wines on display and may ask winemaker representatives they have of the eight wine experts who will be present.

They are Barcino's Juan Jose Galeras-Pinol, Bistro's Luis of Ocidio, Wines, Bites Etc.'s Raymond Beverage Brands, Edward Tinker of Consolidated Distilleries, Margo Blake of Taste Pil, Aaron Phillips of NDP, Deniz Garcia of Bodegas Hidalgo and Raymond Joseph of Ralph's.

Reservation fee is P1,000 for La Camara members and P1,200 for non-members. Call 8867641.

Culinary classes

BIGGIE ASPIRAS WILL HOLD THE following cooking classes/demos:

Oct. 17—Pesto Oil—Bring Pan Prawn Pasta, Penne with Smoked Bacon in Spiced Creamy Tomato Butter Sauce, Baby Squid Pasta in Garlic and Chilies, Mangolin Chicken Pasta, Lobster Tails in Saffron Infused Cream Sauce with Shitaki Mushrooms and Truffle Oil.

Oct. 18—Cooking with Seafood 1 Oil—Spiced Clams all over Crispy Crabbers with Dipping Sauces, Soft Shell Crab Salad, Gado del Nasse (Indonesian Angsdad) in Olive Oil and Garlic, Paella of Baby Squid, Rose in Cook Fish, 6 of my favorite recipes; Whole Apahap, Sole Fish & Pizzaiolo Specs, and by MEEN Foods

Oct. 22—Pesto—all new! Pita with Smoked Beef Wrapped In Angus Pea, Beef Satay Lamb Shish Kebab, Butter Chicken Kebabs, Cyrus Lamb & Beef (Greek Sauvignon) & Tzatziki

Creating Your Gourmet Getaway Holiday—Holiday Gourmet Cooking Lessons for Household Cooks and Beginners. Call 9395296, 9373008 or 0908-2372346.

BAVARIAN Sound Express members let a little "Oktoberfest" wonder loose into a coma.

Oktoberfest for the family

IN KEEPING WITH THE TRADITIONAL Oktoberfest, Mandarin Oriental, Manila and The Bavarian Club of Manila recreate the revelry of a centuries-old Bavarian tradition for the family.

On Oct. 19, 10:30 a.m., family Oktoberfest regales children of all ages at the SBC Tent at Bonifacio Global City, to complete the four-day Oktoberfest 2007 celebration hosted by Mandarin Oriental and the German Club.

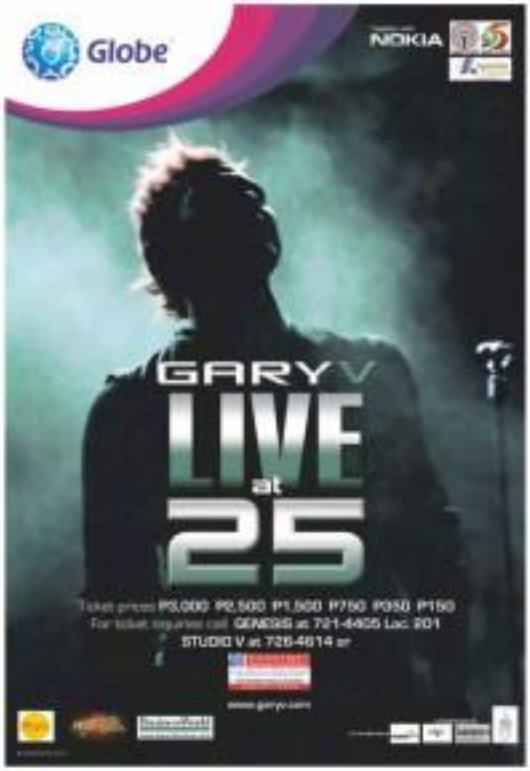
The "Bratwhoppers" has a bodhe of German and popular children's fare, served amid authentic "oompapa" music played by the Bavarian Sound Express, a 12-piece band flown in from Munich, Germany. The German European School Manila will also present a hip-hop performance and classical fun.

There'll be games and activities for the family, including a playground with a bouncy castle, puppet show, painting competition, BC on racing from dusk, magician, caricaturist, kiddie salon, face artist, balloon artist, and football play area from Puma.

Adults can also test-drive the latest Audi models. For women, there are beauty products at LR corner.

Preceding the Family Oktoberfest are the San Miguel Beer Gluttee Fiesta on Oct. 14, a local edition of German festivities, with a top band, roadside and Filipino fare, as part of San Miguel's 120-day celebration, and two nights of the authentic Oktoberfest with the Bavarian Sound Express, Oct. 17 and 18.

Tickets to the "Family Oktoberfest" are at P1,100, inclusive of unlimited food and beer. The first four children under 12 years old in a family or group are free. Call 750-8888 (stations 2631 or 2401.



From Chinese and Japanese to Continental food

Kamayan

surrounded and subdivided in yellow embossed with Chinese characters. One place, however, had a tiny chip on one side.

Staff—We like the idea of one-server per table system; makes service more efficient. Our particular waiter explained the dishes on the menu which led us to discover Chinese food that were new to us.

Service—We did not hear any distracting conversation among the staff. Food came in fast, but upon our main dish came ahead of the starters.

Suggested meal—For nearly P2,800, a party of three can get Taro Puff (P195), Ham Sui Kuke, an empanada-type pastry filled with meat (P130), their own Fried Rice served in custard of sizzling prime mongolian with meat in brown sauce (P350), Pandakan Fried Noodles, which were actually more limited because it was not oily or off (P295), the very tender Sautéed Beef with Mushrooms (P350) and Stir-Fried Vegetables (P280). Don't leave dessert out. There's Red Taro with Sago and other choices.

Final service and government taxes are collected.

Rating-

Tenuhe, Japanese restaurant, Unit 229-231, Entertainment Area, SM Mall of Asia (tel. 5360360), also facing the sea

Dining area—Same to blank. There's a small private room, left of the entrance door.

Staff—Courteous and efficient, mostly ladies.

Service—Gracious.

Suggested meal—Shared by two or three diners: Kanel Sukiyaki (a unique soup, cooked on the table. A wealth paper, containing the ingredients (seafood, chicken, vegetables), is placed in a wire basket over clear Dee (P375). Follow up with a small Tanbi Bowl, combo of five kinds of sushi and sashimi (P1,180). Unless there's big money in your pocket, order the entree Beef Teriyaki (P420) against the Wagyu (P2,500). Coffee Jelly (P80) or Banana Flambé (P100) are among the desserts.

Usual charges are collected.

Rating-

Sala Bistro, G/L, Greenbelt 3 (tel. 7298868), facing the church. Bistro actually means casual dining.

Dining area—The interiors are in dramatic black and white. High ceiling has crystal chandeliers. Black chairs, white tablecloths. Avoid going to the ladies' room unless you want to risk bumping your head on the dark black walls. It's that small.

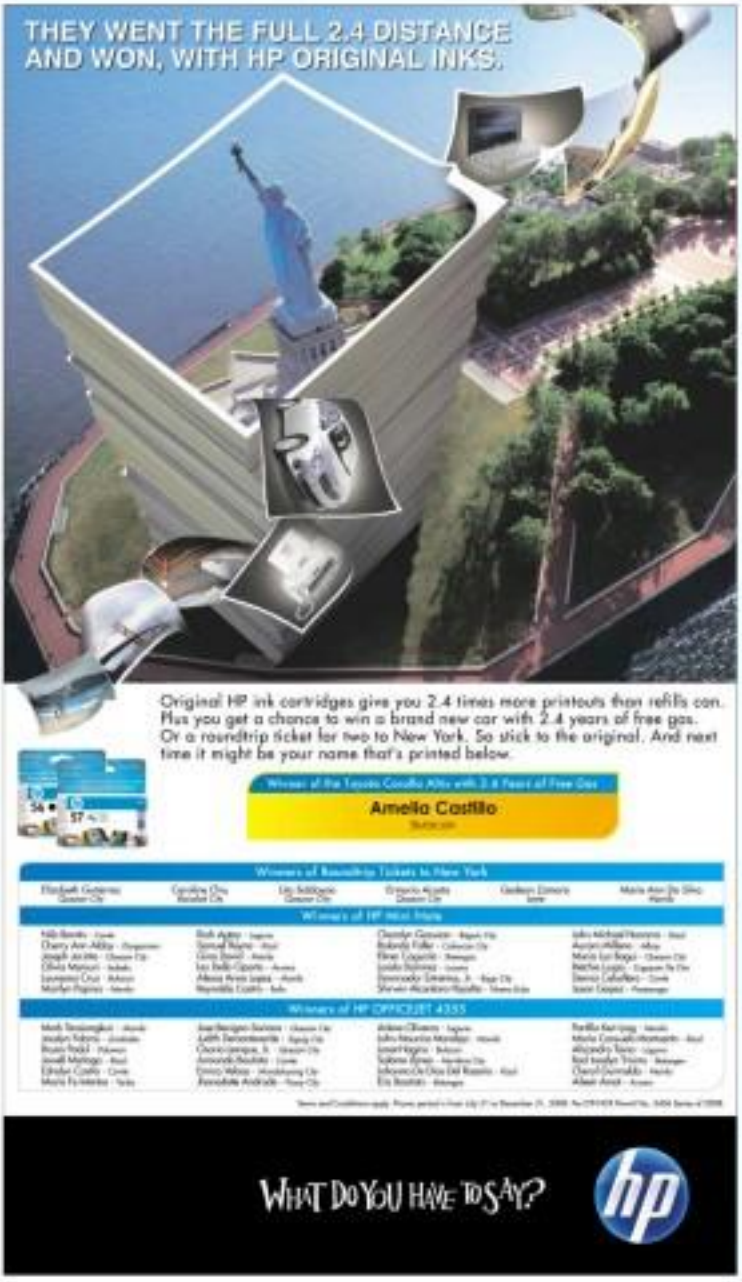
Staff—One server to a table. They all wear black uniforms and are ready to take orders. Attentive. Apologetic.

Service—Unbearably slow that, at 12.25 p.m., they have run out of the particular lamb cut for our spaghetti dish and Quiche. It took a while to be served.

Suggested meal—We settled for Green Salad, Italian Seafood Stew, with big, succulent scallops, among others, (P390) and Lamb Confit (yes, they still have the shoulder cuts—one person told us) our on top of the other, on a slab of roasted pumpkin and crushed garlic and carrot puree (P630). Profiteroles and Cream Brulée were great desserts, shared as well.

Usual service charge and government taxes are collected.

Rating-



Goings On

'New Beginnings' at CCP

TO CELEBRATE ITS 38TH SEASON, Ballet Philippines presents a benefit performance of "New Beginnings" Oct. 16 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Main Theater. Other performances are set Oct. 17, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Oct. 18, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Oct. 19, 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. For information about ticket prices, subscriptions and the season's performances, call 8315221 and 8311303, e-mail boxoffice@philippinedance.org or visit www.balletphilippines.org.

Alumnae homecoming

Batch 1983 of School of the Holy Spirit in El Hornes, Quezon City, will host its silver jubilee alumnae homecoming on Nov. 15, 2:30 p.m., at the school's multipurpose hall. Batches 1988, 1993, 1998 and 2003 will join Batch 1983 in its celebration. Call the secretariat at 7917154 or e-mail shsalumnae_secretariat@yahoo.com.

Pianist Aspiras in Manila

ABC Foundation presents Filipino master pianist Cecile Licad in Chopin Nocturnes in a series of concerts starting Oct. 17, as soloist with the Metro Manila Community Orchestra under the baton of Manila's Chino Toledo in a program of Beethoven's 4th Concerto and Chopin's 2nd Concerto. On Oct. 20, she joins violinist Denise Hwang and cellist Ramon Lucas for an all-Beethoven evening at Makati Cinema. All performances will be held 7:30 p.m. at Francisco Santiago Hall, Makati Ave. cor. De la Costa Ave., Makati City.

New maternity apparel store

Look and feel like a celebrity mom with Anja, stylish made-for-pregnant women clothes line made specifically for The Ready mom. The store is now open at Greenbelt 5. Boldly stalkerally dreams, fans, only fashionable pieces waiting to be discovered.

Insurance seminar

A special half-day seminar to address the supply-chain risk entitled "Trade Disruption Insurance" will be held Oct. 24 at the Conference Hall of the Insurance Institute for Asia and the Pacific, 36/F, Joy-Nostalg Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City. The speakers are Mark Cooper, managing director of TPC Brokerage Inc., and Alec Elliot Ikan, president of MB & Associates.

Jewelry sale

Jewel of an event as 60-percent discount "best Kara World on Oct. 20-24 at the atrium of The Block, SM City North EDSA. Lay-away plans and cure payment installment plans are also offered. Free services such as engraving, cleaning and ear piercing are also available.

Pre-X'mas at Greenhills

Greenhills Shopping Complex hosts the 12th Philippine Toys, Gifts, Housewares and Christmas Décor Fair until Nov. 3. Organized by Prime Asia Trade Planners & Convention Organizers, the trade fair showcases décor, lights and fixtures, antique and modern furniture, and furnishings, arts and crafts, food and delicacies, RTW and novelty items.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Bonnie D. Velarde

'Big Love' season two

TWO new episodes of "Big Love" will air back-to-back on HBO every Monday at 11 p.m. starting Oct. 27. The series follows the complicated life of Bill Henrickson (Bill Paxton), a polygamist faced with the problem of meeting the needs of three wives, seven kids, three houses and his business. Not to mention a cranky mother and brother. The new seasons opens with Bill facing personal and professional crises created by the outing of First Wife Barb as a polygamist during a high-profile "Mother of the Year" ceremony in the governor's mansion.

CLICK!

Down time at home

Sometimes, doing absolutely nothing is the best thing in the world

"I LOVE how I have fun. I really, really love my daughter."

BACK STORY

Eve Gallenger

I FLEW INTO MANILA QUIETLY ON Wednesday evening to spend a week of down time with my family. I'm very thankful that, although I'm signed up to spend a good chunk of time on this future reality show for "Cinderella", there are some breaks due to recent days and whenever else that allow me to come home. My entire body shuts down and grabs whatever respite it can, however it can.

While at my favorite hair rebonding/ massage spot, I thought of the top 10 things I do while on a decompression break.

1) Sleep

Yeah I'm told, even in the most ideal conditions, I have trouble sleeping. I could have the most comfortable bed on the planet or the nicest pillows that could be provided by a hotel — and I've stayed in some really nice ones — and still I'll be tossing and turning till daylight. Even at home I need a bit of a time to evolve slumber (and not on account of my husband's snoozefest snoring, either). In any case, home is where I sleep best, because ... hey, it's home.

So, whenever I'm home, I allow myself the luxury of extra sleep. Insisting full well that I'm back on the road, there will be some tossing and turning soon again.

2) Get a massage or two

This is another indulgence. My husband and I always come here — our favorite reflexology/ massage place — together. It's quiet and peaceful, with cozy spa or ambient music or a massage video on. There are private rooms, large serveiche buckets of hot herbal foot soaks, every pajamas for us to change into prior to treatment, like wellbeing tea is served before we're ushered into our rooms, setting us on the path to relaxation. The rates are reasonable, too!

My legs are what suffer when I perform "Cinderella." Ballet runs, heading up and down flights of stairs, and walking in three-inch heels under for a very sore body from the waist down. Thus, the massage.

3) Eating out with Rob

My husband and I are incredibly busy people, with work taking up a bulk of our schedules and the remainder of our days occupied by a very curious, talkative and active toddler. Sometimes, we are lucky to get to have a "date" whenever we can.

Lunch or dinner, plans or not — we make time, even a late meal, in restaurant. And before we fall asleep, it's nice to hear him say, "Honey, I'm so happy you're home." It puts a smile on my face. The numerous snoring is then blissfully ignored.

4) Time with Nicole

I love my daughter. I love my daughter. I really, really love my daughter.

The one thing that does make me feel a bit sad is not being there everyday for Nicole. I feel blessed, though, that she is in trusted and caring hands. I have a fantastic yaya and my mother stays at our house when I'm away. When I'm abroad and my husband's home, Skype becomes our best friend. I can then watch Nicole recite "Itsy Bitsy," or sing along with the "Sesame Baby" DVD (she actually asks for it, and loves to sing "Mama").

Still, as great as technology is, it's not the same as being home, where I can spend time with her watching films or "Disney Chat" (it's Disney animated film like "Cinderella," "Aristocats" or "Mulan"... and applaud her own unique rendition of "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star." Or I can just watch her pick up toys off the floor or pick out an outfit. She would call my attention to rainbows ranging in the twilight, the twinkling of thunder, school passing by...

I can start losing her full stomp. I love the smell of her hair. I love the sound of her voice as her vocabulary expands and her enunciation improves.

She's 2 years and 9 months old, and to this day I regard her with disbelief. I catch myself thinking, "I can't believe that little girl is mine." On her wedding day I'd probably be thinking the same thing still!

5) Watch my brother work

BOOM 02

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GALLERIA

1 MAX PAYNE	6 EAGLE EYE
2 MAX PAYNE	7 TROPIC THUNDER
3 THE STRANGERS	8 SINOB
4 BODY OF LIES	9 BURIED ALIVE
5 APALOOSA	10 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM

ERMITA

1 THE STRANGERS

2 MAX PAYNE	6 RESERVED
3 BODY OF LIES	7 RESERVED
4 APALOOSA	8 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM
5 TROPIC THUNDER	9 EAGLE EYE / BURIED ALIVE

METRO EAST

1 APALOOSA	5 TROPIC THUNDER
2 MAX PAYNE	6 MIRRORS
3 BODY OF LIES	7 EAGLE EYE
4 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM	8 BURIED ALIVE

NOVALICHES

1 MAX PAYNE	3 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM
2 BODY OF LIES	4 MIRRORS

PIONEER

1 MAX PAYNE	3 APALOOSA
2 THE STRANGERS	4 BODY OF LIES

STA. ROSA

1 BODY OF LIES	5 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM
2 MAX PAYNE	6 MIRRORS
3 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM	7 DISASTER MOVIE
4 EAGLE EYE	8 MY BEST FRIEND'S GIRL

LIPA

1 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM	5
2 MIRRORS	6
3 DISASTER MOVIE	7
4 MY BEST FRIEND'S GIRL	8

DASMARINAS

1 THREE KINGDOMS	5
2 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM	6
3 MAKE IT HAPPEN	7
4 MAX PAYNE	8

IMUS

1 BODY OF LIES	5
2 MAX PAYNE	6
3 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM	7
4 EAGLE EYE	8

ANGELES

1 MAX PAYNE	3 MUTANT CHRONICLES
2 EAGLE EYE	4 IGOR

STARMILLS

1 MAX PAYNE	4 MAKE IT HAPPEN
2 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM	5 MUTANT CHRONICLES
3 EAGLE EYE	6 IGOR

BACOLOD

1 MAX PAYNE	6
2 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM	7
3 MY BEST FRIEND'S GIRL	8
4 MAKE IT HAPPEN	9
5 MUTANT CHRONICLES	10
6 THREE KINGDOMS	11

ILOILO

1 BODY OF LIES	5
2 MAX PAYNE	6
3 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM	7
4 MIRRORS	8
5 100 FEET	9
6 MY BEST FRIEND'S GIRL	10

Down time at home

From page E1

I am quite possibly my brother Gerard's biggest fan. More often than not, I'll be the screaming banshee at a concert that he's considering. Hey, I'm his big sister! I owe it as my responsibility to behave like a complete idiot when he's onstage.

I recently took in two concerts: Ogie Alcasid's "Twenty/Twenty" and "Wilfest All-Mozart Concert," which he conducted on his birthday, Oct. 13. Two very different shows. I'm used to seeing him conduct pop repertoire—rip outs or another artist's. The Mozart concert was my first time to watch him conduct classical music. I found it one of my favorite classical composers. The repertoire included the familiar overtures from "The Marriage of Figaro" and "The Magic Flute." Gerard was in his form. The orchestra was fantastic, guest performers Cuke Bolipata and Giovannoy Emmanuel Cruz were excellent. And Gerard? My memories should suffice as a description. He was magnificent — and I say it without bias.

Ok, my baby brother's all grown up. Belated happy birthday, Gerry!

6) See my friends

On Thursday, I met up with three of my good friends—Bobby Garcia, Chad Aeropagitage and

continued on E4

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 MAX PAYNE PG-13 12:20, 2:40, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00
2 BODY OF LIES R-13 1:10, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40
3 TROPIC THUNDER R-13 2:30, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
4 STRANGERS R-13 2:25, 4:40, 6:55, 9:10
IGOR PG 2:40, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

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TROPIC THUNDER - R13
APPALOOSA - PG13
BODY OF LIES - R13
THE STRANGER - R13
IGOR - G
MAX PAYNE - PG13

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
THEATRE MART
PROMENADE
1 APPALOOSA
2 TROPIC THUNDER
3 STRANGERS
4 BODY OF LIES
5 MAX PAYNE

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NOW SHOWING
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Power Plant Cinema
Walter Mart
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Trinoma
Fairview Terraces
Gateway Cinemas

AT THE CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1: 1 BODY OF LIES | 2 MAX PAYNE | 3 THE STRANGERS | 4 IGLAM
GLORIETTA 4: 1 TROPIC THUNDER | 2 EAGLE EYE | 3 BODY OF LIES | 4 PINEAPPLE EXPRESS | 5 APPALOOSA | 6 MAX PAYNE | 7 THE STRANGERS
GREENBELT 1: 1 BODY OF LIES | 2 MAX PAYNE
GREENBELT 2: 1 BODY OF LIES | 2 MAX PAYNE | 3 PINEAPPLE EXPRESS | 4 THE STRANGERS | 5 TROPIC THUNDER
ALABANG TOWN CENTER: 1 MAX PAYNE | 2 THE STRANGERS | 3 BODY OF LIES | 4 APPALOOSA | 5 TROPIC THUNDER
AYALA CENTER CEBU: 1 MAX PAYNE | 2 BODY OF LIES | 3 TWINS UNSTOPPABLE | 4 GRAVEDIGGER'S
MARKET! MARKET!: 1 MAX PAYNE | 2 THE STRANGERS | 3 TROPIC THUNDER | 4 BODY OF LIES | 5 IGLAM
TRINOMA: 1 IGLAM | 2 EAGLE EYE | 3 THE STRANGERS | 4 APPALOOSA | 5 TROPIC THUNDER | 6 BODY OF LIES | 7 MAX PAYNE

AT THE MALLS

Glorietta: PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER JOB FAIR, October 15-17, Glorietta Activity Center
Greenbelt: SHOPPING SPREE AT GREENBELT 1, August 15-October 15
Alabang Town Center: SOUTHERN CUISINE AT THE TOWN, October 17, 24 & 31, 6:00pm, Event Zone
Ayala Center Cebu: TWINS PINK MEMORABILIA EXHIBIT, October 13 to 31, Power Scheme
Market! Market!: MEGAFIT ENHANCERS, October 18, Activity Center
Greenbelt Chapels: Repertoire Philippines presents Annie's Musical, August 8 to December 15, 2008
Ayala Museum: I AM WHAT, Ongoing until 27 November 2008 at Second Floor
Tri Nonna: BALUZZI Wine Beerlogne Workshop, October 18, 6:00pm, 2nd Level Exhibit Area (near Powerflex); ANNIE'S APPLAUSE MADNESS, September 26 - Oct. 18, Activity Center

EXCLUSIVE
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Lav Diaz opus, 6 new local works in 10th Cinemanila

By Gerry Plaza
Contributor

AN IMPRESSIVE LINEUP OF PHilippine movies, plus world premieres of six new offerings from acclaimed local filmmakers, highlight Dekada Cinemanila, marking the 10th staging of the country's best documentary film festival. The event takes place Dec. 16 to 22 at Gateway Cineplex 16, Araneta Center, Quezon City.

Lav Diaz's 5-hour opus "Melancholia," Best Feature Film awardee in the Orizzonti section of the 2008 Venice Film Festival, leads this year's Philippine showcase as the main local contender in the international category.

"The Arising: Rizal Above Queen Regorafa," a Philippine co-production with Ireland and the US, is also in the running for the coveted Lino Brocka Grand Prize. Adolfo Alix Jr.'s "Adela," screened in this year's Toronto International Film Festival, is up against entries from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia in the Southeast Asia Competition.

Diverse styles, themes

"The filmmakers competing this year have different styles," Cinemanila founder Tessa Agustin, himself a noted film director himself, told Inquirer Entertainment. The entries discuss a variety of relevant themes, too, such as indigenous cultures and migration.

Competing for the Grand Jury Prize in the Digital Lokal competition are six more works: "Ala Eh(me Ala Saem)" by Ricardo Jamisola, "Ang Manghuhula" by Paolo Herrera, "Cignature" by Alexander Tambunting, "Embraced" by Shireen Seno, "Hotel Attraction" by Khyo Mayuko, and "Sisa" by CJ Bolinas.

The festival will also feature nine short films competing for the Manuel Bernal Prize in the "Young Cinema" section.

A total of P330 in cash prizes await the winners. The entries are also competing for acting and other creative categories.

Screenwriter Jose "Pete" Lacaba will receive a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Down time at home

From page E1

Mercedes Lauchengco-Yuki—to attack the buffet at Shangri-La Makati's Garden. I was the last one to arrive, having come from doing errands. They had started on the appetizers. Yes, yes, I did catch up. That entire buffet is suitably delicious, but the Indian food was especially great. We sat there at around 8:30 p.m., and left at close to 11 p.m.

Not all that time was spent eating, no! We talked about work, too. Bobby Chiel and I work on "Cinderella" together, and we took some selling blondes about the ordeal was for us (my 5th tallied about other friends, about each other's shows ["Noontime Q" is going to Singapore later this month], and whatever else we could think of. All of us have worked together, either in pairs, in shows, or all three, in concerts, musicals or plays. We truly enjoy each other's company away from work. So much laughter goes around! I'm blessed to be a part of their lives and to have them in mine.

At the end of the day, I am also a housewife—meaning, a grocery list is bound to find its way into my hands

7) See my friends, part two

Not all my friends are actors. One of my best friends, Gerill Iesaares (nee del Rosario), I've known since I was 15. The friendship started with our learning over '80s Duran Duran boy band Menudo. She asked if I wanted to join the fan club of which she was the president. I said no, but that didn't stop us from being friends. Today, 25 years later, we're still best buddies.

We went to dinner together, with me visiting her from most every chance I get. We're relaying of each other's daughters, and try to spend time together whenever I'm home. My most recent visit was to her brand new house, before I headed out on tour. A lovely home it is. When I was away from home for the first time, her cards and letters, as well as her visits to London and New York, kept me from getting too homesick. She's kind, funny, incredibly sweet, a great mommy and a fabulous cook—I hate her when I'm away. And I still owe her a night out.

8) Errands

At the end of the day, I am also a housewife. Which means that a grocery list is bound to find its way into my hands. I'm one that did earn the weekend wasn't very long, but included all the staples— fruits, salad, milk, cereal, sweet corn.

Thing is, whenever I do visit the grocery I usually add a few unlisted things— mints, almonds, popcorn, interesting-looking junk food, cheese, and crackers. I'm also a sucker for grocery items and personal stores running on clearance, so I tend to grab several additional packs.

Other errands include accompanying my husband on his grooming routine, and realizing now that my tour stock are replenished. Also, buying gym bills for other people.

9) Guest on a game show!

Beyond that night I was asked to appear on "Deal or No Deal." It's one of my favorite game shows (and I kind of prayed for the chance to be on it). My goodness, I get stressed just watching a contestant pick what could be the P5,000,000 briefcase. I was depressed when I learned that the show was being replaced by another. Now I'm content that it's back… and I was asked to play Ishay!

For choices the I Can Serve Foundation in my beautiful world. I write a rare, big prize. For more information on this breast cancer awareness group, visit http://www.icanserve.com. Bazar Claire Magazine's October issue (I'm this month's cover girl) has dedicated lots of its pages to this worthy cause. If and when you see, get yourself a pink T-shirt! As I write, though, I still don't know what my "Deal" episode is airing.

10) Nothing

Yes… absolutely nothing. As unproductive as that may sound, sometimes, doing absolutely nothing is the best thing in the world.

Shout-outs

Congratulations to Singer and the cast and crew of "West Side Story" for a successful run! Kudos to Menchie Lauchengco-Yuki for an impressive directorial debut, as well as to Christian Acuzar for the courage to take on a huge role. Much salutations go to Jessica Anapol and Rowena Villar for running home and sharing their incredible talents with the Filipinos. I hope you two come back again and again… We'll never have enough of either of you.

To Jo, Jacob a Ong, an Christmas Eve on "Avenue Q" on the West End! I think her can begin in December. Merry Christmas, indeed!

Shameless plugs

• PILIpartnership has released "Heritage: The Music of Antonino Buenaventura" (conducted by Gerard), the fourth CD in the "Musika Natin" series; the three others are "Lahing Kayumanggi," "Ugnayan" and "Kampan." All are now available at major record bars. Visit http://musikanatin.com.

• "The Dawn, one of Manila's premier rock bands, has recorded a jazz album! "The Last Half of Day" has chill versions of their signature hits, such as "Enveloped Heat," "Young Hearts Yeah" and "Beyond the Bend," plus covers of "Message in a Bottle," "Ebbb With You" and "Can We Still Be Friends." The album that shouldn't be missed will be released Nov. 3 by MCA Universal under Imagination Music.

• Speaking of The Dawn, their film, "Habang Buhay" is now available on DVD. Directed by Mike Sandejas, the semi-autobiographical movie was named Best Film at the 2006 Cinemanila festival. Find the DVD in any Powerbooks branch or in Fully Booked, Bestsellers, High Street.

If you want to read more of what's going on until me, visit http://filipiz333.multiply.com or http://shineboiler.blogspot.com